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No. 2155.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1869.

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—

ARCHITECTURE.—Prof. T. HATTEY LEWIS will begin his Second Course of Lectures on Architecture and Construction on TUESDAY, the 16th of February. The Lectures on Architecture as a Fine Art commence at 7.30 p.m.; those on Construction, at 7.30. Fee for each Class, 31. 13s. 6d.; for both Classes, 61. 6s.—Prospectuses, containing further information, may be obtained at the Office of the College, Gower-street, W.C.
JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.
January 28, 1869.

ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, Jermyn-street.

Prof. RAMSAY, LL.D. F.R.S. will commence a COURSE of Thirty-two LECTURES on GEOLOGY on MONDAY NEXT, the 15th of February, at Two o'clock, to be continued on each succeeding Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Monday, at the same hour. Fee, for the Course, 32.
Prof. GOODFRIEND, M.A. will commence a COURSE of Thirty-six LECTURES on APPLIED MECHANICS on TUESDAY, the 16th of March, of which further notice will be given.
TRENHAM REEKS, Registrar.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—The ensuing

EXHIBITION will be held in the NEW GALLERIES at BURLINGTON HOUSE. A Room has been designed exclusively for the Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings, and each Department of Art will be specially provided for.
Works intended for Exhibition must be sent in as follows:—Paintings, Water-Colours, Crayons, Architectural Drawings and Models on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 9th and 10th of April; Sculpture on WEDNESDAY, the 7th of April. All Water-Colour Drawings must be framed close, without mounts. Plaster Casts proposed to be exchanged for Models are not admissible, and no Work will be received which has already been publicly exhibited in London.

All Works will be received at the Entrance-gate, Burlington-house, adjoining the Arcade. More definite information, with a Plan of the Entrances, may be obtained at the Registrar's Office in the Royal Academy, Trafalgar-square.

The Royal Academy will not hold itself responsible in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage of any package.
JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The ANNUAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Apartments, Somerset House, on FRIDAY, February 19, at 1 o'clock; and the ANNUAL DINNER will take place the same Evening, at WILLIS'S ROOMS, King-street, St. James's, at 6 o'clock.
Members and Visitors intending to dine are requested to leave their names at the Society's Apartments, or at Willis's Rooms.

MATHEMATICAL MASTER WANTED.

ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTE.

The present Head Master of the Thematical and Mercantile School in this Institution having resigned, the Managers and Visitors intend electing a Successor on the 11th day of March next. Testimonials, stating Qualifications and Experience in teaching, will be received up to the 1st day of March next by the Assistant Secretary, William Simms, Esq., Linero Hall, Belfast, who will give all information to Candidates regarding Duties and Emoluments.
Belfast, 2nd February, 1869.
W. J. C. ALLEN, Secretary.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

Agricultural Education.
The EXAMINATION of CANDIDATES for the Society's Educational Prizes will take place in the Week commencing MONDAY, April 19, 1869.
Copies of the Rules required to be sent in by the 18th of March may be obtained on application to
H. M. JENKINS, Secretary.
12, Hanover-square, London, W.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—Subscription.

One Guinea.—Pursholders select from the Public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber has a chance of a valuable Prize, and, in addition, receives a Choice of the most beautiful of the CHOOSING the WEDDING GOWN, by Vincent Brooks, from the Original Picture by William Mulready, R.A.
LEWIS POCOCK, Hon. Sec.
444, West Strand, Jan., 1869. EDM. E. ANTROBUS, Secs.

MUSICAL UNION, 1869.—Twenty-fifth

Season.—MEMBERS are requested to pay their SUBSCRIPTIONS to Lamborn Cook & Co. Bond-street, or by cheque to the Director. Tickets and Record will be sent in due time. Members declining Subscription to notify the same before March, to J. ELLIS, 6, Victoria square, Grosvenor-gardens, S.W.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

LONDON, 4, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square.
TUESDAY, 16th inst., at 8 p.m. Papers to be read:—
"Locmariaquer."—Dr. Charnock and Mr. Lewis.
"Physical Characteristics of the People of Bretagne."—Dr. Beddoe.
Pres. A.S.L.
"Remains of Carnac."—Dr. James Hunt.
J. FRED. COLLINGWOOD, Secretary.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE

SOANE MUSEUM.
The MUSEUM, 13, Lincoln's Inn-fields, will be OPEN this Season on the Wednesday only in each week in the months of February, March, July, and August; and on the Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in April, May, and June.—Cards of Admission to be obtained of the Curator, at the Museum, or from the Trustees.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.—The

COSTUME LIFE ACADEMY in connexion with the above Society will re-commence on TUESDAY, February 16. Instructor, W. H. Fisk, Esq. Visitor, George D. Leslie, Esq. E. E. A.—Particulars to be had at the Gallery, 3, Conduit-street, Regent-street.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE.—Ordinary Meet-

ing, MONDAY, February 15, inst., at 8 p.m.—Paper, by the Rev. Prof. KIRK, of Edinburgh, "On the Doctrine of Creation, according to Darwin, Agassiz, and Moses."
Admission Cards on application to the Secretary, at 9, Conduit-street, Regent-street.

EDUCATION, PARIS, under the patronage of

the Princess de Beauvau.—A French Lady, having successfully established a College for the Education of Young Ladies, begs to inform English Families that she wishes to RECEIVE ENGLISH PUPILS at the College, who will have the advantage of residing with, and being under the moral and religious guidance of an English Protestant Lady, widow of a medical man. The best Professors are engaged. Terms, 800. per annum. References given and required.—Letters may be addressed to Mrs. Rix, who is now in London; to Messrs. Bell & Daldy, University Publishers, 4, York-street, Covent-garden, and Mrs. Rix would arrange an interview.

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The Spirit of ENGLISH LITERATURE, illustrated by an Outline of its Course with special study of some of its Masterpieces; by Prof. Henry Morley; at 12.15 each day.
Fee, for each Course, consisting of at least twenty lectures, 2s. 2d.; either Course may be taken separately. Admission to first Lecture, free (by ticket).
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Miss Martin, 18, Mortons-lane, Regent's Park, N.W.
Mrs. Gerald Potter, 13, Princes-terrace, Hyde Park, S.W.
Mrs. F. A. Taylor, Aubrey House, Notting-hill, W.
Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgewood, 1, Cumberland-place, Regent's Park, N.W.
Or to the Honorary Secretary,
J. E. MYLNE, 27, Oxford-square, W.

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DIED, on the 9th inst., in BELGRADE-SQUARE,

Edith MURCHISON, the Wife of Sir ROBERT L. MURCHISON, in her 51st year.

MISS GLYN'S (Mrs. E. S. Dallas) SHAK-

SPIREAN READINGS: February 15th, at Southampton; 22nd, in London; 23rd, 24th, and March 1st, at Bradford; 2nd, in Edinburgh, where she will teach until April the 10th during her leisure from Public Engagements.—Letters to be addressed to Mrs. E. S. DALLAS, care of Messrs. Chappell, 50, New Bond-street, London; or at Messrs. Edmonston & Douglas, Princes-street, Edinburgh.

MISS LOUISA DREWRY, Professor of

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London, 185, Fleet-street, Feb. 1, 1869.

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS

FELLOWS of the ROYAL SOCIETY are hereby informed that the Second Part of the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 128, for the Year 1868, is now published, and ready for delivery on application at the Office of the Society, Burlington House, daily, between the hours of 10 and 4.
WALTER WHITE, Assistant Secretary.
Burlington House, Feb. 11, 1869.



THE GOVERNORS OF MILL HILL SCHOOL, are anxious to receive APPLICATIONS for the HEAD-MASTERSHIP from Gentlemen of position and attainments. Graduates of any British University who have had experience in similar work is invited to apply for further information to the Treasurer, THOMAS SCURTON, Esq., Corbet-court, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

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of insight and judgment it has in a measure which none of
its predecessors can equal. It presents, moreover, in the
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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1869.

LITERATURE

Vesuvius. By John Phillips, M.A. (Oxford, Clarendon Press; London, Macmillan & Co.)

WE are living in a period of great volcanic and earth-shaking disturbance. Volcanoes are active, and there are "earthquakes in divers places." Therefore, a scientific and comprehensive account of Vesuvius by the veteran Professor of Geology at Oxford is timely.

Vesuvius has a threefold interest—historic, scenic, and scientific,—and these three are intimately associated. It has the historic interest of eighteen centuries, during which its near neighbours have regarded it with curiosity and watched it with alarm. In eruption, it is a formidable and uncertain foe. It has buried two cities in ashes, and has destroyed many lives. It stands like a huge and lofty tumulus over the lava vaults which itself has made and filled with corpses. Its records are written in fire, its voice is thunder, and its familiar work is desolation. What it has done it may again and at any time repeat. In menacing proximity to a great and populous city, it stands as a melancholy memento of the past and a sombre warning for the future.

Forget its desolations, and it is a scenic object. The blue dome, when crowned with white cloud and seen from afar, rises over the sunny plain and blue sea like a form of poetry and a dream of fancy. It is the subject of many paintings, the theme of many songs, and the long-desired vision of many a far-travelled tourist. None who see it in calm and in smiles could believe in its frowns and terrors; none who view its terrible eruptions, its showers of ashes and batteries of hot stones, could credit that for centuries it only sleeps and sends forth a gentle, curling, fleecy cloud as a foil for the glittering sunlight. It is, however, with the eruptions and with the geology of this scenic and historic volcano that we are now principally concerned.

Prof. Phillips introduces his volume with an historic account, and narrates the chief facts connected with the death of Pliny and the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Afterwards, we have a long but instructive chapter—the Third—on Vesuvius in eruption to A.D. 1800. The fourth chapter shows us Vesuvius in the nineteenth century, and now we arrive at details relating to our own days. On the 8th of December, 1861, after severe earthquakes, eleven small cones, less than half a mile from Torre del Greco, and ranged in a fissure 2,000 yards in length, threw out clouds of ashes, and one of them gave vent to lava. The town was shaken to fragments, and the ground fissured in all directions; while the adjoining sea-coast was raised three-and-a-half feet.

That may be taken as the beginning of a long period of disturbances, extending to the present day. Earthquakes prevailed in Southern Europe and the north of Africa in 1865, 1866 and 1867, and upon these followed eruptions of Vesuvius and Etna, Pantorino, the Azores and Hecla. In April, 1868, there was a great outflow of the Hawaiian volcano, and recently we have learnt the terrors of that terrible earthquake on the coast of Central America. Vesuvius, indeed, is now seldom quiet, and there are notices of minor disturbances from February, 1865. In our own columns a Correspondent has given a history of the recent eruption in letters from Naples on the 7th of January and the 21st of March of last year. On the 16th of March, Prof. Phillips and a

friend arrived in Naples during a lull of the volcanic action, and when a future of troubled repose was expected. From this date, and the page of the present volume announcing it, we have a more lively personal narrative by the Professor, illustrated with several small but effective diagrams.

On the evening of the 21st of March re-kindled fires began to blaze at intervals from the mountain. But the grandest of all the exhibitions of that time was witnessed on the 27th of March. Let the Professor describe it as he saw it from Naples:—

"One long, burning stream down the whole north-western slope of the great cone, quite reaching into and spreading across the Atrio del Cavallo. On the top, fitful bursts of clouds of fiery bombs and wide-spread ashes, below just where it appeared last night, but now far brighter, and glowing with a full steady eye of light, the second great burst of light and motion. Now, it spreads a bright cloud above; then down to the valley, knots and lines, sometimes double, of sharp white or reddish fire, swelling into considerable masses, and broken into many gleaming points. Towards the base, a wild cataract of fire is pouring towards us, and is stretching its red fingers over the elder lava. Now and then a star-like point in advance seems to beckon onward:—

Der freien Tochter der Natur.

Finally, on the deepest part of the whole visible horizon, a horizontal row of fourteen small bright star or gem-like fires marks the conquest of the current over the flat space of the Atrio [del Cavallo], and seems to unite again the long-separated masses of Somma and Vesuvius,—parent and child, the far-descended progeny of the struggling Titans."

The Professor and his friend made two ascents of the mountain, though not to the summit edge of the crater. Cold and heat were both against them. A storm of thunder, hail and snow, followed by heavy rain—a storm likewise of ejected stones:—all these at one time prevented access to the summit. Batteries of hot stones are frequent missiles from the mountain, and our columns record their ejection so lately as August 8th, last year. Thus the Professor missed the impressive look down into the crater from its edge; the rolling dense clouds of white fume covering the surface of the bottom, almost concealing the black sides. But he examined lavas and dykes, and did the work of a philosopher, if not of a mountaineer.

Of the outward form of this volcano and its periods of rest and activity, we have no space to say anything in detail; but we must refer to what is more instructive—namely, its internal structure. On this subject we listen to the Professor with fixed attention. The volcano is seen to consist of conical stratifications, which everywhere dip away from the axis, excepting only within the central funnel. The laminations increase in steepness as we ascend the mountain up to an angle of about 30°; beyond which the inclination is not augmented, except for short distances. Wherever natural sections can be examined, the determining elements of this conical stratification are a mass of what was once volcanic dust, or *lapilli* (small stones), or lumps of scoria, just such as fall in the showers of every eruption, and in all directions around the funnel. These materials, collected under the force of gravity, and the coherence arising from their various figures, settle at any slope less inclined than the angle of rest, which does not much exceed 30°, the maximum slope for any considerable length.

Mixed and alternating with these higher and looser deposits are sheets of solid rock, more or less parallel with, but less extensive than, the other layers. These are the lavas, the once liquid streams, very similar to the products now

poured out from the top or sides of the volcano. The so-called *dykes* cross the strata and lava sheets in various and irregular directions, and seem to have been pressed or melted into fissures of previously consolidated lava and layers of lapilli and dust. In the central funnel there is a parent stem of all these dykes, continuing deeply downwards. With this central lava-stem all the dykes were connected at the time of their injection amongst the other materials.

By vertical sections parallel to the axis of the Vesuvian cone, and by sections through the axis itself, all the layers are shown as level, or as approaching to the level position. By an ideal horizontal section at right angles to the axis of the cone, we observe the general concentricity of all the layers of lava of the deposits of loose material, and we may safely infer the original connexion of all the fissures which cross the laminae with the central pipe. Every reader may thus frame a conception of the whole mass, and its mode of gradual accumulation into its present conical coherence.

The different lava currents of various ages form a study by themselves, and require a large coloured map for their illustration. A small map is prefixed to this volume; but all visitors to Vesuvius should previously procure the map of M. Le Hon, published in 1866, which represents, on a large scale and in colours, all the known currents to A.D. 1861, as well as the frequent superposition of one upon another will permit. As our author says, this map was hardly to be procured in Naples in 1868; we may add that it may be obtained in Brussels or Paris for six francs; as well as a complete history of the great eruption of Vesuvius in 1631, by the same author.

Many interesting questions arise in connexion with the consideration of volcanic energy. For instance, in relation to Vesuvius, what is the magnitude of the principal eruptions as partly represented by the mass of ejected lava? In A.D. 1737 the mass of lava was estimated at 10,237,096 cubic metres, and in 1794 the still larger quantity was estimated at 20,744,445 cubic metres. Take the latter separately, and it would give ten inches in depth over the whole surface of Paris. The mass of Vesuvius itself is a measure of energy according to the idea of its construction above suggested, and the opinion of Seneca seems probable, viz., that the ancient Vesuvius (including Somma) has thrown out much more than its own bulk. Since Seneca's time, and during the course of 1800 years, the modern Vesuvius has ejected lava and ashes to the amount of thrice its own bulk.

Could we rightly interpret the mechanical phenomena of eruptions, we might hope to arrive at a knowledge of the mass-forces causing them, and at an estimate of the productive energy. Could we interpret the chemical phenomena, such as the constitution of lava and ashes, the evolution of steam, the sublimation of metals, metalloids and metallides, the outpourings of acids and salts, and the like, we should probably succeed in ascertaining the nature and condition of subterranean matter, and of the molecular actions which accompany the effects of the mass-forces. Important observations in these directions have of late years been made by some English and some foreign savants; and the sciences of Seismology and Vulcanicity are now securing promising cultivators. In foreign books the valuable studies of Mr. Mallet are seldom noticed, yet the names of Mr. Mallet, Hopkins and Haughton ought to obtain respect and record. The first-named gentleman personally inspected the Vesuvian crater while

lava was fluid in it, and estimated the temperature of its bright red mass to be about 2,000°. He also concludes that the focal area, or cavity, or fissures where the disturbance originated, have a mean depth of about 5½ geographical miles, and could not extend upwards and downwards above 3 geographical miles (18,225 feet). Considering the direction of the wave at the surface, and the measure of the disturbing forces manifested there, it is apparent that the focal fissure stretches through about nine geographical miles in length. At this moderate depth sprung into action the motive power of the great Neapolitan earthquake of 1857. Probably, however, it had its source of energy at a considerable distance to the south-east of Vesuvius.

When we attempt to combine the various observations of credit and value in a general theory of Vulcanicity, we find how difficult it is to travel along subterranean roads. If there be no royal road to science on the surface, assuredly there is none below it. That volcanic phenomena are local effects depending upon extended conditions we are tolerably sure. But what are these general conditions, and how do they produce the local phenomena? In Vesuvius we observe the particular action, and refer it to limited causes. But on the largest scale we have to ascertain mutual relationships and their dependence in time and space on general terrestrial or cosmical conditions. It is at least something to know that the greater problem includes the less, and that every soundly established local fact has some bearing upon the general theory.

A few notes and grounds of reasoning may be selected and stated as suggestions. The temperature of our earth increasing by known degrees for various depths, and there being a perpetual flow of heat upwards from the interior, we infer that below a certain point the heat is not accidental but original, and due to distinct cosmical conditions. We are almost compelled from our present knowledge to believe that for greater depths than from one to ten miles, the heat would be found to increase in nearly the ascertained ratio, if the rocky crust be of the same quality in regard to heat. It is so for five or ten miles in England. But in other parts of the earth, at ten miles, we should have a temperature of about 2,000°, more or less, according to rate of augmentation. At this temperature a great portion of our rocks and metals, taken singly, would be in fusion, and still easier would be their fusion in mixture. Of course if we diminish the ratio of descending increase of heat we diminish the descending temperature. The actual existence of an interior fluid is, as Prof. Phillips argues, the natural result of correct reasoning on the distribution of heat in the exterior solid coating of our planet. From astronomical considerations, there must be a certain depth of solidity, and, in accordance with the problem of that eminent mathematician, the late Mr. Hopkins, of Cambridge, that depth ought to be one-fourth of the earth's radius, and therefore including more than half the volume of the earth. The least depth which he can allow for solidity is six or eight hundred miles; it may be more.

Lava can hardly be forced upwards through channels of such great length, and it is unnecessary to believe this. But an interior fluid, composed of silicated earths, alkalis and metals, which is accessible to water, open or capable of being opened to the air or the ocean, appear to be the fundamental condition of volcanic energy. Such fluidity being admitted, it must be due to the globe's inherent heat.

Mr. Hopkins allowed that, though the exterior

crust of the globe may be solid as a whole, yet it may contain great seas or lakes of lava. If these liquid-holding basins lie under separate volcanoes, it is easy to comprehend how erupted lava may be locally and independently derived from no great and unlikely depths. The liquid mass is always in readiness to flow out, upon the application of adequate pressure to sustain the column. Pressure may be caused by steam, and steam may rend the rocks above it; and hence the earth may shake. Steam generated in large quantities implies great reservoirs of water; but in all known cases the steam pressure required may be derived from a depth less than that of rock-fusion by earth-heat.

Our globe is slowly losing heat. "To me," says Prof. Phillips, "it appears clear that on the general fact of a cooling globe two great systems of movement in the earth's crust are to be surely inferred; one downward, by reason of the determining of a general contraction to particular axes and centres; the other upward, arising from the crystallization of rocks whose specific gravity is less than that of the whole mass. Whether these rocks entangle themselves below, so as to constitute practically a solid basis, or float in a magma of slow fluidity, is of no material consequence to the general theory of the earth, or to the particular theory of volcanoes. The conformity and diversity of these latter can be well enough explained either way; conformity of general phenomena from causes of like origin, diversity of particular effects from the varying depths and communications of the channels, and the different qualities of the solid rocks which are rent by earthquakes, absorbed by heat, and ejected by steam."

Of what nature are the communicating channels, and where do they run through and divide areas of vulcanicity? Do neighbouring volcanoes communicate and sympathize like neighbouring nations? Do those two Titanic brothers, Vesuvius and Etna, send subterranean messages of fire and earth-shakings? Do they correspond in secret and alternate in outward activity? Certain it is that so lately as in last November and December this intercommunication and active alternation appeared to take effect, for Prof. Palmieri, of Naples, observes that these two, though usually independent volcanoes, have established some sort of union. On the night of the 26th of November, 1868, the last current of molten fluid descended from Vesuvius, and on the 27th a majestic and dazzling crest appeared on Etna. At once the ten cones of eruption in Vesuvius diminished their fearful activity; but the small crater which had been formed about half way up the great cone still emitted much smoke. Perhaps Etna has taken up the fiery tale unfinished and untold by Vesuvius; or Vesuvius may again take up that of Etna.

We thank Prof. Phillips for his acceptable volume, and only hope he will have opportunities in a future edition to make a better arrangement of some parts, and to add an index of facts and phenomena to those of places and personal names. So instructive a book deserves all care to mature and complete it, and to make its contents readily accessible to the reader. The illustrations are all useful, if not all ornamental.

The Life of Columbus, the Discoverer of America.
Chiefly by Arthur Helps. (Bell & Daldy.)

SOME years ago the author of 'Friends in Council' published a memorable work, in four volumes, in illustration of the Slave Trade. Like some other controversial books, it began as an explanation, and grew, by inherent force and genius, into something like a history. As

a book, that 'History of the Spanish Conquest in America' had very high merits; wide research, noble writing, and a firm grasp of the main subject in hand. Much biographical matter entered into it; but this matter was necessarily kept under, as being at best available to an artist only in subordination to the general purpose. But a new idea has presented itself to Mr. Helps—that of separating the biographical material from that which is purely historical, and, with such additions as may be found desirable, constructing a series of lives of the discoverers and conquerors out of his history of the discovery and conquest.

"This Life of Columbus," he explains, "is one of a series of biographies prepared under my superintendence, and for the most part taken verbatim from my 'History of the Spanish Conquest in America.' That work was written chiefly with a view to illustrate the history of slavery, and not to give full accounts of the deeds of the discoverers and conquerors of the New World, much less to give a condensed memoir of each of them. It has, therefore, been necessary to re-arrange and add considerably to these materials, and for this assistance I am indebted to the skill and research of Mr. Herbert Preston Thomas."

This is all we learn, and the explanation leaves us a little in the dark, unless indeed Mr. Helps means to abandon his 'History' as one of his permanent works, and to break it up himself, using the spars and copper in the construction of other books. Such can hardly be his meaning: yet how else are we to take his Preface?

Passing over this point, as one which concerns the writer mainly, we have little but pure commendation to bestow on this 'Life of Columbus.' That the story is very well told, we need hardly say; since Mr. Helps tells it. What is more important for the reader to learn is, that the new material now added to the biography is great in quantity and good in quality. In our time, with the help of a thousand critical readers in every good library, discovery succeeds to discovery very fast; so that a work which was up to the state of our knowledge a dozen years ago might be extremely defective in the present years. Writers who, like Miss Strickland, do not know the difference lay themselves open to a good deal of banter. Mr. Helps is not a writer of this class. He keeps his eyes open to what is going on in the world of thought, and he has pressed into his service every new fact which has recently turned up.

We shall be doing both writer and reader a good turn by quoting the opening passages from the 'History' and from the 'Life'; in the first place, because these two passages on the same topics will show the way in which the new book is constructed; and in the second place, because they show in a brief space the advances made in our knowledge of Columbus in a dozen years.

The 'History' of Columbus begins:—

"Columbus was born in the Genoese territory in the year 1447 or 1448. His family was obscure, but, like most others, when the light of a great man's birth is thrown upon its records, real and possible, it presents some other names not altogether unworthy to be inscribed among the great man's ancestors. Columbus was sent to Pavia for his education, and seems to have profited by it; for he wrote legibly, designed well, was a good Latin scholar, and it is probable that he then acquired the rudiments of the various sciences in which he afterwards became proficient. At the age of fourteen he went to sea. Of his many voyages, which of them took place before, and which after, his coming to Portugal, we have no distinct record; but are sure that he traversed a large part of the known world, that he visited England, that he made his way to Iceland, that he had been at El

Mina, on the coast of Africa, and had seen the islands of the Grecian Archipelago. He also mentions having been employed by King René of Provence, to intercept a Venetian galliot."

Compare this statement with the fuller and fresher details now submitted to the reader of Mr. Helps's 'Life of Columbus':—

"The question of Columbus's birthplace has been almost as hotly contested as that of Homer's. A succession of pamphleteers had discussed the pretensions of half a dozen different Italian villages to be the birthplace of the great navigator; but still archaeologists were divided on the subject, when, at a comparatively recent period, the discovery of the will in which Columbus bequeathed part of his property to the Bank of Genoa, conclusively settled the point in favour of that city. 'Thence I came,' he says, 'and there was I born.' As to the date of his birth there is no such direct evidence; and conjectures and inferences, founded on various statements in his own writings, and in those of his contemporaries, range over the twenty years from 1436 to 1456, in attempting to assign the precise time of his appearance in the world. Mr. Irving adopts the earlier of these two dates, upon the authority of a remark by Bernaldez, the curate of Los Palacios, which speaks of the death of Columbus in the year 1506, 'at a good old age, being seventy years old, a little more or less.' But this statement has an air of vagueness, and is, moreover, inconsistent with several passages in Columbus's own letters. And the evidence of the ancient authorities who seem most to be relied on, points rather to the year 1447 or 1448 as the probable date. His father was a wool-carder; but this fact does not necessarily imply, in a city of traders like Genoa, that his family was of particularly humble origin. At any rate, like most others, when the light of a great man's birth is thrown upon its records, real and possible, it presents some other names not altogether unworthy to be inscribed among the great man's ancestors. Christopher was not, he says in a letter to a lady of the Spanish court, the first admiral of his family—referring, evidently, to two naval commanders bearing his name, who had attained some distinction in the maritime service of Genoa and France, and the younger of whom, Colombo el Mozo, was in command of a French squadron in the expedition undertaken by John of Anjou against Naples for the recovery of the Neapolitan crown. But his relationship with these Colombos, if traceable at all, was probably only a very distant one, and his son, in admitting this, wisely says that the glory of Christopher is quite enough, without there being a necessity to borrow any from his ancestors. At a very early age he became a student at the University of Pavia, where he laid the foundations of that knowledge of mathematics and natural science, which stood him in good stead throughout his life. At Genoa he would naturally regard the sea as the great field of enterprise which produced harvests of rich wares and spoils of glorious victories; and he may have heard, now and then, news of the latest conclusions of the Arabic geographers at Senaar, and rumours of explorations down the African coast, which would be sure to excite interest among the maritime population of his birthplace. It is not wonderful that, exposed to such influences, he preferred a life of adventure on the sea to the drudgery of his father's trade in Genoa. Accordingly, after finishing his academical course at Pavia, he spent but a few irksome months as a carder of wool (*vector panni*) and actually entered on his nautical career before he was fifteen years old. Of his many voyages, which of them took place before, and which after, his coming to Portugal, we have no distinct record; but are sure that he traversed a large part of the known world, that he visited England, that he made his way to Iceland and Friesland (where he may possibly have heard vague tales of the discoveries by the North-men in North America), that he had been at El Mina, on the coast of Guinea, and that he had seen the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago. 'I have been seeking out the secrets of nature for forty years,' he says, 'and wherever ship has sailed, there have I voyaged.' But beyond a few vague allusions of this kind, we know scarcely

anything of these early voyages. However, he mentions particularly his having been employed by King René of Provence to intercept a Venetian galliot. And this exploit furnishes illustrations both of his boldness and his tact. During the voyage the news was brought that the galliot was conveyed by three other vessels. Thereupon the crew were unwilling to hazard an engagement, and insisted that Columbus should return to Marseilles for reinforcement. Columbus made a feint of acquiescence, but craftily arranged the compass so that it appeared that they were returning, while they were really steering their original course, and so arrived at Carthage on the next morning, thinking all the while that they were in full sail for Marseilles."

This extract will suffice by way of sample. There are questions on which we differ from the verdicts of Mr. Helps; but there is no doubt in our minds about the general excellence of this volume. A more charming book for boys has never been issued from the press.

The Principles of Currency. By Bonamy Price. (Parker & Co.)

THE great merit of Mr. Price is his clearness of expression. Right or wrong, he tells us what he means; and this in a writer on the currency is not the least of good points; but it is not only on the currency question that Mr. Price is clear. In his inaugural lecture, which forms the first chapter of the present work, he brings out better than any other economist has ever done the truth of the proposition that Politics is the master science, Political Economy the subordinate. "Its conclusions," he says, "are not final, nor supreme. They may be overridden, modified or rejected, at the dictation of a yet more universal science." Would that our Indian statesmen had never neglected this truth! Mr. Price aims at a strictly scientific treatment of the currency question. Taking nothing for granted, he builds up his structure from the ground itself; and the result is that his chapter on Metallic Currency, in spite of a questionable use of the word "value" at p. 43, is a pretty nearly perfect introduction to the subject.

In his later chapters, Mr. Price has fallen into a way of trying hard to make out that he is a heretic, while he is, in fact, a perfectly "sound" economist. In his chapter on Banks he violently attacks the bankers for their habitual inaccuracy of language. In the lecture on the Money Markets he exposes the gold-mania of the writers of money-market reviews; but, just as the currency quacks must be taking heart, he comes out with bitter ridicule of the notion that panics are produced or intensified by scarcity of money. His chief conclusions appear to be these: That a bank-note is a cheque drawn by a banker on himself; that the issue of paper-money is limited by the need of it by the community for the purposes of buying and selling commodities; that a certain amount of legislative interference with the issue of bank-notes is, on the whole, advisable, and that Government should prove bank-notes as it proves guns; that the best guarantee is the good management of the issuing bank; that the effect of the Bank Charter Act is to make the circulation practically metallic, with the exception of the 15,000,000*l.*; that the keeping of gold in a cellar is a rude and wasteful means of insuring the convertibility of the bank-note; that the original figure of 14,000,000*l.* was taken at hazard; that, having regard to the past, the Bank should be allowed to issue 20,000,000*l.* of notes instead of 15,000,000*l.*, in addition to those issued against gold; that, nevertheless, the Act of 1844 cannot be said to restrict the supply of bank-notes, but merely to supply

them in a costly and wasteful way; that there is no valid objection to the plan of permitting the issue of notes on securities; that, the issue of notes being limited by the capacity of the public, such issues would not bring to traders that millennium which they expect; and that the question of whether Government alone should issue notes is one of detail, not of principle.

Mr. Price's book on the Currency will take rank alongside of Mr. Göschen's on Exchanges as one of the two best monographs on economic subjects.

The Epicure's Year-Book for 1869. Second Year. (Bradbury, Evans & Co.)

AGAIN we have to thank Fin-Bec for a little book on the subtler pleasures of a refined table—a volume that justifies its motto in containing

Nothing to mar the sober majesties
Of settled, sweet Epicurean life,

and by doing much to exalt and glorify them. Perused over the toilet-table, it will prepare the reader for breakfast; glanced at during the placid hours of morning, it will whet his appetite for the mid-day repast, which a foolish alderman stigmatized as an insult to breakfast and an injury to dinner; studied thoughtfully during the afternoon, it will raise his spirits and intelligence to the level requisite for the enjoyment of the principal daily meal; tranquilly pondered during the evening, it will foster gratitude for the enjoyments of a well-spent day. Thankful for its guidance on many difficult questions, we can commend it also for the cleverness with which it raises points for discussion, and occasionally provokes a pleasant spirit of opposition. One of the places where Fin-Bec seeks a difference with his reader may be indicated by the question, What is rabbit? Cooks and epicures are not in unison as to the proper classification of this somewhat mean and flavourless creature, which English sportsmen, in the face of a recent amendment of our Game Law, persist in ranking with vermin. Miss Acton, without expressly raising rabbit to the dignity of game, gives directions for its cooking amongst receipts for the preparation of hares and pheasants; Mrs. Beeton deals with it under the heading "poultry"; Alexis Soyer glances at its culinary treatment in his section on "fowls"; in his larger work, Cre Fydd places it amongst "game"—in his abridgment he assigns it a position between "pig" and "goose." In his introduction to *menus* for January, boldly defying the etymologists and compilers of dictionaries, Fin-Bec says, "It has been said that a bad dinner at any time is an offence, but that in January it is a deliberate snare. Why, in the matter of poultry, your poulterer offers you turkey, capon, chicken, rabbit, goose, larks and duck." Precisions would deny that larks can be rightly classified with "the young of birds usually called domestic fowls" (Richardson's definition of poultry); but the high priest of the kitchen—a law unto himself on language as well as cookery—declares that the term introduced into our mother-tongue by the *chefs* of the Norman barons is applicable to a featherless quadruped that lays no eggs. In his justification, it will not be enough for Fin-Bec to urge that rabbits are poultry because they may be bought at every poulterer's stall, for the London poulterer deals in many kinds of provisions, such as pheasants and partridges, Gruyère and Neuf-châtel cheeses, which no sane man would think of calling poultry. In texture and flavour, rabbit no doubt resembles chicken more than any of the nobler sorts of game, but the same might be said of a lady's white kid slipper, which culinary art had rendered fit for a gourmet's tooth, and yet no one would venture to

call a fowl. We do not say that Fin-Bec's definition is indefensible, but it certainly does not close the discussion of the perplexing question—What is rabbit?

Amongst the 365 methods of cooking a fowl, which M. de Cussy offered to submit to the hero of Austerlitz, there was none better than Fin-Bec's receipt for *poularde des gourmets*.—

"Take a plump and tender pullet, truss it, dry and singe the interior, take a clean piece of meat dripping about the size of an egg, with double its quantity of butter, and mix with a good pinch of tarragon leaves;—and stuff the bird. Tie up the pullet securely at both ends, the feet within. Then take a fresh clean pig's bladder; insert the pullet; tie the aperture. Then wrap it in a cloth, and put it into boiling water. It should boil uninterruptedly for two hours. Untie the pullet when done, and serve it upon a hot dish in its own gravy. Separately, a *sauce blonde* flavoured with tarragon. Surely, such a dish as this may be served any day in any January in the most modest of British establishments without creating a domestic revolution."

The creature is thus cooked in its own unqualified juice,—a culinary feat occasionally performed by Suffolk labourers, who, on catching a hedgehog, are wont to envelope it with clay, and thrust it thus packed in tenacious earth into the fire. After the clay has become brick, it is broken with a blow, when the creature's prickly skin adheres to the earthen crust, and its tender flesh rewards the primitive but most successful cook for his well-directed labour.

About fish our author lectures with characteristic judgment, speaking with proper praise of that "most delicate fish, the brill," which Theodore Hook "foolishly called the work-house turbot"; but Theodore, though he ruined his stomach by eating and his brain by drinking, never mastered even the rudiments of gastronomy. In the fullness of his powers he could not appreciate rightly a dish that was cheap as well as good, and cared only for what was dear in the market. Yet, further, the thing which cost much money was flavourless to the wit's dull palate unless it had been bought and prepared by a great man's cook. But the true epicure—and Fin-Bec writes only for sincere and unaffected *gourmets*—enjoys good fare, without reference to its rarity or plentifulness. Careless of cost, so long as he procures the gratification of his higher nature, he turns away disdainfully from the wasteful *plat* that tastes of nothing but money. Thus it is that Fin-Bec can applaud the delicacy of brill, a fish which, even more than whiting, deserves to be called the chicken of the deep, and relishes whitebait all the more because its identity with the cheap and acceptable herring has at length been conclusively demonstrated by Dr. Günther.

In the chapter entitled "The Scrap Book," which concludes his volume, Fin-Bec gives some curious notes and jottings about dinners and their consumers. We are told of a restaurant, at Joinville-le-Pont, where the following notice appears upon the first page of the *carte*: "Guests may dine in their shirt-sleeves." In the next paragraph we read, "An Oriental installed himself recently in Paris, with extraordinary magnificence, and launched into all the epicurean pleasures of the French *cuisine* with astonishing vigour. The breakfasts, dinners and suppers were incessant. A lady, free of speech, observed of her host, 'He is a wild boar whom civilization has turned into a pig.'" Another scrap gives capital directions for salad-dressing: "The Spaniards have a proverb which describes their salad:—'A spendthrift for oil, a miser for vinegar, a counsellor for salt, and a madman to stir it all up.' Infinitely preferable to Sydney Smith's poetic recipe."

Having written critically and profoundly about gravies, why should not our epicure in

his next Year-Book give us a chapter on graces, setting forth the frame of mind in which the fastidious eater should come to a banquet, the means by which he can best prepare his intellect and nervous system for the thorough enjoyment of a complicated repast, and the temper of mingled gratitude and benevolence in which he should ultimately rise from table? In such a chapter he might notice the various apt ways in which individuals and corporations have been known to exhibit their thankfulness for choice food and generous wine. Much might be said in it about obsolete or almost disused forms of thanksgiving after meat, one of the strangest of which ancient forms is the grace, still acted instead of spoken, at the terminal dinners at Clement's Inn. After the banquets of that learned society, members and guests rise on the removal of the white cloth and witness the following thanksgiving in pantomime. Before the president of the second table the butler puts a mass of bread, consisting of four loaves adhering to each other by their kissing crusts. Taking this mass of bread in his hand the said president of the second table slowly raises it above his head to the full reach of his arm, and after a few moments' pause brings it down with a thunderous whack on the oaken table. A second time the bread is elevated and struck upon the resounding board. Yet a third time the same feat is performed; and then, before strangers have had time to recover from their astonishment, the grace-actor has thrown the bread so that it slides and spins down to the bottom of the long table, where it is caught up by the butler, who instantly runs out of the dining-hall with it in his outstretched hands. The whole grace is typical. The four loaves represent the Four Gospels; the three elevations are in reverence of the three persons of the Sacred Trinity; the manner in which the bread is cast down the table indicates the liberality with which the Bread of Life was given to mankind; the alacrity with which the butler runs out of the hall exemplifies the alacrity with which zealous servants hasten to distribute the bread of spiritual knowledge to those who hunger for it. The date of this singular grace is unknown; but it is certainly of ancient origin, and no one can question that it sprang from devout sentiment.

My Adventures Afloat: a Personal Memoir of my Cruises and Services in the Sumter and Alabama. By Admiral R. Semmes. (Bentley.)

It is quite safe to pronounce 'My Adventures Afloat' to be the most impudent and reckless book of the present season. It is impudent in every way, and reckless in every page; an insolent piece of brag, a defiance of public taste and an outrage on public law.

In the first place, it bears no printer's name. How is this? we venture to ask Mr. Bentley. Mr. Bentley is a London publisher; his name stands on the title-page; and he must be well aware that a printed book ought to carry the printer's name. His answer may be, perhaps, that this shameless volume has not been printed in England at all, and that his own pretence of bringing out an English edition is a mere device of the trade. If so, it is an unusual answer for an eminent London publisher to make.

In the second place, it is a reprint, with much frothy addition, of a work already known in the English market; a work which was published by Messrs. Saunders, Otley & Co., under the title of 'The Log of the Sumter and Alabama,' and which long ago died the death of all noxious things. Some of our readers may remember that poor and flatulent book,

which Mr. Semmes admits was made up from his own journals and log-books, lent to Messrs. Saunders & Otley for the purpose. It was a failure. There was too much of it for English taste. We know that it brought no credit to the London firm, and we have yet to learn that it brought them any profit. Mr. Semmes announces that he got nothing by it; but we suspect that the publishers' case was worse than his own. Anyhow, the book is there; and anybody who wants to read about the Alabama can satisfy their craving in a reasonable space by sending for 'The Log.'

In the third place, it is a piece of self-laudation, equal in unconscious comedy to Artemus Ward. "A number of publications have appeared concerning the author and his career," says "Mr." Semmes, "Captain" Semmes, or "Admiral" Semmes; adding, in the Artemus vein, "as was to be expected." Equally modest and true. A "number of publications"? What publications have appeared concerning the author and his career? We know of none whatever except what Mr. Semmes has written,—'The Log,' long ago printed in London, and 'My Adventures Afloat,' which appears to have been printed nowhere in particular. Mr. Semmes is his own hero and his own biographer. And what a hero! In his own belief, Mr. Semmes is the greatest man alive, and the Alabama was the noblest vessel ever sent to sea. "She not only alarmed the enemy"—the enemy being his native land—"but she alarmed all the other nations of the earth." Such a hero and such a subject strained the virtue of minor mortals beyond their power. They came to worship and to celebrate; only too happy if they were suffered to bend the knee and sound the trumpet before so great a god. "A number of ambitious *littérateurs* entered the seductive field," says the hero. No field, in particular, has been mentioned; but we suppose the field of glory generally is meant. But these daring and ambitious men took little by their efforts. "These penny-a-liners all made miserable failures, not even excepting the London house of Saunders, Otley & Co." We cannot help feeling for our London contemporaries. The world was hard upon them for publishing 'The Log' at all; and now the "hero" whom they wished to serve speaks of them without the customary forms of politeness, and denounces them as "penny-a-liners."

In the fourth place, it betrays the names of private persons, even of women, who were civil to the privateer when he escaped to London, in a manner to embroil them with third parties and with a jealous and exacting public. Liberties are taken with the name of one lady which are most unwarrantable. The writer ought to know that people are not so warm about his "exploits" as they were four or five years ago, and that a kindhearted woman may have offered help to fugitives, in the hour of their distress, without wishing to be linked with a dubious transaction in a permanent record. Women are in such things far more sensitive than men. We cannot pretend to say whether the Rev. Mr. Tremblett will like the association through which he is dragged in this volume. Probably he will not; but he chose his own political friends, and it is no great hardship that he is afterwards found in their company. He is, in some sort, a public man. The lady's case is quite different; and we are certain that this gratuitous parade of her name will bring to the members of her family the acutest pain.

Beyond personal bounce and swagger, reckless abuse of his country, and loathsome flattery of ours, there is absolutely nothing in 'My Adventures Afloat.' Mr. Semmes is good enough to say

that "so far as his own career was concerned, the author would gladly have devolved the labours of the historian on other shoulders." It would have been wiser to have done so. No "historian," we undertake to say, would have touched the subject. The theme is not attractive. The story of a war-ship which burns unarmoured traders until she falls in with an equal, and then goes down for ever, is not a topic for worthy pens to handle. An altogether factitious importance was assigned to the Alabama, not on account of her "exploits," but because of her origin. When the grave trouble to which she gave rise has been removed, not a single soul on this planet will ever care to recall the figure of Mr. Semmes and the memory of his 'Adventures Afloat.'

Travels in the East Indian Archipelago. By Albert S. Bickmore, M.A. (Murray.)

At the back of the fort of Amboina, "a beautifully-shaded street leads up to the east," and on one side of this street is a garden with a small square pillar. "A thick group of coffee-trees almost embrace it in their drooping branches, as if trying to protect it from wind and rain and the consuming hand of Time." Here lie the remains of George Everard Rumpf, a German, of Hesse-Cassel, born in 1626, and who died in 1693, after serving the Dutch East India Company thirty-nine years. In his youth he had studied medicine, and thus imbibed a love for natural history, so strong that he continued to prosecute his researches to the last, in spite of the calamity of blindness, which prevented him from returning to Europe, and afflicted him at the comparatively early age of forty-two. He composed two works, one of which, 'Rariteit Kamer,' or Chamber of Rarities, was published twelve years, and the other, 'Hortus Amboinensis,' forty-eight years after his death. The former work was for a long time the acknowledged standard to which all conchological writers referred; the latter was no less valuable, as a careful description of the plants of the region from which its name is taken. Both were so highly esteemed that the author was honoured by his contemporaries with the title of "the Indian Pliny," and the shells he had collected were so much thought of that after the conquest of Holland by the French they were taken to Paris from Leyden, and afterwards re-transferred to the latter city. In those transfers the collection was broken up, and it was to restore the specimens and to bring to America a similar collection that Mr. Bickmore went on his far journey to the Eastern Archipelago.

Commencing his voyage in April, 1865, our author landed first at Batavia, where he received every encouragement and assistance from Baron Sloet van de Beele, then Governor-General of the Dutch possessions in the Eastern Archipelago. Thence he sailed on the 7th of June for the Moluccas, stopping *en route* at Surabaya, on the north coast of Java; at Macassar, the capital of Celebes; and at Kupang and Dilli, in the island of Timor. He reached Amboina on the 29th of June, and here his principal work began, his desire being not only to obtain the same shells that Rumphius figured, but to procure them from the same points and bays, so that there could be no doubt about the identity of the fresh specimens with the drawings of the German *savant*. He had not been long thus engaged before he experienced one of those terrible alarms which make a residence in the beautiful isles of the Eastern Sea the reverse of agreeable. He was awakened by a frightful noise in the bowels of the earth, and "at the next instant it seemed as if some huge

giant had seized the bed, and had pushed it from him, and then pulled it towards him with the greatest violence." A moment more, and all the inmates of the house were seeking refuge in a room with a roof purposely made so light as not to injure any one by its fall. From Amboina Mr. Bickmore made many interesting excursions to the neighbouring islands, to Ceram and Buru, to Saparua, Banda, Bachian and Makian. He was successful not only in making a collection of shells similar to the one he had taken for model, but also in adding many rare specimens. Nor did he restrict himself to conchology, but obtained many skins of birds and animals. Thus, in Kayeli, on the south-east side of Buru, he spent whole days in hunting, and in one week added sixty-three skins of rare birds to his collection. After visiting Ternate, Tidore and Gilolo he found himself at the end of December at Menado, the largest village in the north-eastern limb of the strangely-shaped island of Celebes. Thence he passed to Java, and soon to the western coast of Sumatra, to Padang and the country of the Cannibal Bhattas, whence returning south he crossed the whole island from Mount Bungki to Palembang, from which port he sailed to Singapore, where he arrived on the 18th of May, 1866, a year and fourteen days from his landing in Java. During this time he had travelled 6,000 miles over the Archipelago without once setting foot on any other soil than that possessed by the Dutch.

It is not to be supposed that journeyings of such extent could be made in such a region without considerable danger. Mr. Bickmore had many escapes. We have already mentioned the earthquake; and he was several times nearly lost in tempests at sea, all but fell from terrific precipices, and came near to being devoured by tigers and cannibals. But besides these violent risks, there were constant perils cropping up even in the ordinary travelling. For instance, here is a not very pleasant or safe mode of disembarkation:—

"At length, near night, we came to anchor off a village that the Resident was obliged to visit. It was situated on a straight, open beach, which descended so abruptly beneath the sea, that the high swell never once broke before finding itself suddenly stopped in its rapid course; it rose up in one huge wall that reeled forward and fell on the steep shore with a roar like heavy thunder. Although I was born by the shore of the open sea, and had seen boats land in all kinds of weather, I never saw the most daring sailors attempt it through such a surf as was breaking before us. Every few moments the water would rebound from the sand until it rose twice and a half as high as the natives standing near it, at least fifteen feet. One of our number could not conceal his timidity, and declared that every one of us would be drowned if we should attempt to land at that time. The Resident, however, said he should try it, and I assured him he should not go alone; and the others concluded not to allow themselves to be left behind. More than two hundred natives had now gathered on the beach. They soon made a rude skid or wide ladder, with large poles on the sides, and small green ones with the bark torn off for the rounds. This was laid down when the wave was forming, and a heavy prau pushed on to it as the wave broke, and a broad sheet of surf partially buoyed her up. As this wave receded, she was successfully launched. We were now ordered to change from our boat into that one, and at once we ran in toward the shore over the heavy rollers. Other natives now appeared on the beach with a huge coil of rattan an inch or more in diameter, and two or three of them seizing one end, ran down and plunged headlong into a high wave as coolly and as unhesitatingly as a diver would leap from the side of a boat in a quiet bay. The end of the rattan was fastened firmly to the front part of our boat; the other was carried up a long way on the beach, and the natives

ranged themselves in two rows, each grasping it with one hand as if ready to haul in the leviathan himself, when the warning should be given. A number of heavy seas now rolled in and broke, but the natives, by means of their paddles, kept us from being swept forward or backward. A smaller swell is coming in now. Every native gives a wild yell, and those on the shore haul in the rattan with all their might, and away we dart on the crest of a wave with the swiftness of an arrow. We are now in the midst of the surf, and our boat is on the skid, but away we glide at the speed of a locomotive, and already we are high upon the bank before the next wave can come in."

After passing through such a formidable surf it is not very tranquillizing to one's nerves to go to sleep amid a population of head-hunters, none of whom are allowed to marry until they have made room for the progeny they propose to engender by taking off some of the heads of those among whom they are living. Such Malthusian rules are not encouraging to visitors.

Again, as if it were not enough to be travelling in the Batta country, where the natives eat up quite indiscriminately thieves, prisoners of war, and missionaries, the tourist finds in vogue the following peculiar kind of suspension bridge:—

"The difficulty in crossing this bridge, which is as flexible as Manila rope, is so great, not only because it oscillates to the right and left, but because there is a vertical motion, and its whole floor, instead of moving in one piece, is continually rolling in a series of waves. An official, who had taken very careful measurements of it in order to make an estimate of the cost of erecting a true bridge, for this airy way does not deserve such a substantial name, gave me the following figures: total length, 374 feet; height of the middle and lowest part of the first span above the torrent 108 feet; height of the middle and lower part of the second span, 137.5 feet. The inspector then came over safely, and we walked a short distance to a neighbouring village while the natives were taking our carriage to pieces and bringing them over one at a time. Although I am not one of those who allow themselves to be constantly tortured by presentiments and omens, I could not rid myself of an impression that some accident was going to happen to those who were bringing over the carriage, and went back to see for myself what they were doing. The wheels and top were over, and six natives were bringing the body, which, though quite large, was very light. They had already crossed the long span, and were coming on to the short one. 'Is it possible,' I said to myself, 'that such a structure can hold such a weight at such a great leverage? We shall soon see, for they are rapidly coming to the middle of the second span.' At the next instant there was a loud, sharp crack, like the report of a pistol. One of the large rattans that went over the high branches of the camphor-trees and supported the sides, had parted at one of its joints. The officer who had charge of the bridge, and was standing by my side, seized me by the shoulder in his fright. As soon as the rattan on one side broke, the bridge gave a fearful lurch in the opposite direction, but the natives all knew they must keep perfectly quiet and allow themselves to swing, and, finally, when it had become still, they came on carefully and safely reached the bank. The officer and I both believed that the moment one of the rattans broke, the others, having of course to support a much greater weight, would also break, and that we should hear a few more similar crackings, and see all the natives fall headlong down nearly one hundred and forty feet into the boiling torrent beneath, which is so rapid that only a few days ago a buffalo, that was standing in the side of the stream above the bridge, lost his footing and was carried down without being able to reach either bank."

These things are, no doubt, trying; but we must confess to a feeling that the danger with which the journey ends, the combat with a python, seems rather too much worked up.

Mr. Bickmore speaks of the serpent as "the monster," and says that it was "large enough and strong enough to crush the largest horse," and yet he admits that it was brought to him in a box a foot and a half long by a foot high!

The Eastern Archipelago and its islands are not yet a hackneyed subject; and a book like Mr. Bickmore's, pleasantly written, and containing much valuable information, cannot but be acceptable to the public.

Tinker Æsop and his Lessons for the Age. By John Vickers. (Longmans & Co.)

ASSUMING Mr. Vickers entitled to claim the whole discredit of this volume, we are curious to know the precise object of the roundabout rigmarole with which he ushers it before the public. When he was first afflicted with the delusion that he had something to say, why did he not adopt the ordinary course of simply saying it? Instead of this, something or other moves him to favour us first of all with a brief account of his family and his childhood,—then how he learned shorthand, and had great fun with it in his native village,—then how he got himself on the staff of a country newspaper,—then how he one day met a travelling tinker who combined the art of mending saucers with that of making speeches to all sorts of people, from Earl Russell downwards,—then how he became private reporter to his new friend,—and so, finally, how this book came into existence. Now, one moment's reflection—painful as it must be, because too late—will show Mr. Vickers, we feel sure, how much wiser it would have been, if he must needs write at all, to follow the common way of all flesh. For let him consider: his book contains rather more than 300 very closely-printed pages. Not to press too hardly upon him, we may safely calculate that, in round numbers, there are exactly none worth reading, and (say) 250 that are reasonably certain never to be read. It is of course obvious, therefore, that a reduction to the extent of 50 pages would have made the author nearly 20 per cent. less intolerable. What a pity it is that writers do not oftener make use of these elementary principles of arithmetic by applying them practically! Like charity, science would then be a blessing alike to "him that gives and him that takes" such books as this. Besides, as we have said, where was the motive?

The hundred "discourses" which are presented in the form we have explained are on Politics, Theology, Moral Philosophy, Social Science, Spirit-Rapping, and, generally, everything else under the sun; and each winds up with a moral in the shape of a "little story." It is these "little stories" which give the Tinker his cognomen, and one of them we extract as a fair specimen:—

"A young and inexperienced curate, who had lately come from college to do duty in a country parish, was passionately fond of dancing, and was eager to indulge now and then in his favourite pastime, when he could do so in private, and not seem to make a mountebank of himself. One dark winter's evening, having lit up the lower room of his lodging, and set his musical-box going, he began footing it round the table, and flinging his arms and legs about with wonderful agility; for though the shutters were still open, he saw nobody in the outer darkness, and fancied that he was fully concealed. Very soon a party of rustic labourers, going home from their day's work, observed the merry curate at his solitary dancing freak, and immediately drew up in front of the window, and watched him with evident amusement. 'What have you got there looking at, Joe?' said another labourer, who presently came up to the laughing spectators.—'Ho, we are seeing our new parson cuttin his caspers,' said Joe; 'Ha! ha! ha! Blowed if it aint as

pretty a little peep-show as ever I looked into, and there's nothin to pay!'"

We have only to add, that the quotation has been made at random, that it is not at all below the average, and that it is a great deal more readable and original than many of the "little lessons for the age" to which these fables are tail-pieces, and which form the great bulk of the volume.

NEW NOVELS.

One Foot on Shore. By the Author of 'Flirts and Flirts.' 3 vols. (Bentley.)

SERIOUSNESS of aim and artistic purpose make this story far superior to its predecessor. Yet 'One Foot on Shore' is deficient in that lively rattle which carried the reader through 'Flirts and Flirts,' and has the further fault of reminding him of it too often by preserving something of the tone and manner which marked the earlier novel. Again the scene is laid at Ryde, and again we have walks and talks on the pier with the audible whispers of society. Much of the first volume of 'One Foot on Shore' is a more sober repetition of the characters and incidents of 'Flirts and Flirts,' and the variations introduced are scarcely an improvement. The real merit of the new novel as compared with the elder one, is that it leads to something beyond flirtation. It shows there is a moral lesson to be learnt from that life which the author was formerly prepared to accept as perfect and complete. Perhaps we do not gain much by having this moral, but the author gains by having it to offer. She shows too that she has learnt some of the requirements of her art when she takes the trouble to tell a story instead of breaking off in the middle. We are too conscious of the effort, but that will be got over in time. We do not think the story itself satisfactory, but that is partly matter of opinion. There are many other grounds on which we are disposed to find fault. The male characters in general are weak and shadowy. We may make some exception in favour of Major Bolton, and more still in favour of Percy Gordon. But the first is brought out merely by force of contrast, and the second by his own weakness. The other men are *silhouettes*. We know their faces, their dress, and their manner of talking. One never pronounces his *rs*, and yet he is a good fellow at bottom. The Roman priest is meant to be more elaborate, but the whole conception is a mistake. When we come to the women we see that there is a total difference of handiwork. They are beings of another order. We do not say they are always natural or life-like, or even perfect in drawing. But they are no longer the lay figures of ordinary fiction: they speak, move, and act as they are prompted by their characters; and on whatever scale they are drawn they are consistent. Two sisters are most prominent in the novel, Fanny and Florence Berkeley: the elder nicknamed the "Season Ticket," from the regularity with which the early part of every season finds her engaged, and the end of it disengages her. The change her habits undergo when the right man proposes to her at the right moment, and the explanation given of her previous fickleness form the chief merit of the story. If we follow the fortunes of the younger sister, we find more outward change, more attempt at plot and mystification, but a less successful result. The apparent hero of the book, Percy Gordon, has left England for Australia with a vow of fidelity to Florence. Carrying out the meaning of the title-page, he at once marries an Australian heiress. He brings her to Ryde, where Florence is staying, and

there he very nearly runs away with another man's wife. This adventure is stopped by Florence, and Percy Gordon knows of her interference. Soon after this the Australian wife dies, Florence goes on the stage under an assumed name, and Percy Gordon falls in love with her under that name, not knowing her to be the same person. The reader's perspicuity is never at fault, and he resents the shallow mystery. After all, Percy Gordon does not marry Florence. He is too contemptible a character, too much of a weak male flirt, to deserve such a prize, yet he was more than once on the point of gaining it. But for an absurd oath exacted by the married woman whom Florence prevented from running away with him, but for some other artificial obstacles, the "eyes of the blue of the Neapolitan violet" would no doubt have triumphed. The author was averse to such a *dénouement*, and she kills off Percy at the end, as the only way of making sure that he will not carry off her heroine against her will. But this shows to what shifts she is driven. If it was not for Percy Gordon the promise of her title-page would not have been kept. And yet Percy Gordon is the least necessary character in the novel. He may fairly enough be described as having "one foot in sea and one on shore," because he is never more than a bridge, and he is always being passed over. If it be true that "le véritable Amphitryon est l'Amphitryon oh l'on dine," the genuine hero of a novel ending in marriage is the one who is married. Now this hero is not even introduced till we are well into the second volume, and we only know him by name till the Percy bridge is thrown over the gulf that separates him from us. The way in which Florence accepts him has rather the air of a sudden resolve; and although there may be no objection to such resolves being formed by a woman, whether she be a heroine or not, they are not justified after nearly three volumes of preparation.

The Secret Dispatch; or, the Adventures of Captain Balgonie. By James Grant. (Virtue & Co.)

RUSSIANS must look back with a strange mixture of pride and pain to the thirty-four years' reign of Catherine the Second. It is certain that none of her predecessors had ruled the people with a more iron hand, or crushed them into ignominious bondage; yet it may be questioned if any did more to raise the status of the empire in the eyes of the world, to improve its social condition, or to sow the seeds of that progress which has been steadily developing itself. It is matter for surprise, indeed, that this critical epoch in Russian history has not attracted far more attention than it has. Two facts are, perhaps, the best explanations that can be given of the neglect. One is that, little as the rest of Europe knows even now with any certainty of what is going on in the great Eastern country, our information to-day bears a greater proportion to the information attainable then than the news of English papers bears to the news of a hundred years ago. The other is, that it is only within the memory of living men that Russia has begun to be included even in the range of civilization, much less regarded as a country capable of anything better than spasmodic changes and unsystematic vagaries. Whatever the causes, however, the period from 1762 to 1796 is, undoubtedly, worthy of vastly more notice than has been given to it; and from the pages of Levesque, Mannstein, and Villebois, at least enough can be got to reward the pains of reading them. The story and character of Catherine alone form a romance by themselves. A comparative *parvenue* beside nine-tenths of her

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court, intoxicated by suddenly finding herself wife of a man whose weakness and debaucheries virtually transferred an empire to her hands, possessed of a clear-headedness which prevented even her intoxication being more than a useful ally of an ambition which disdained the thought of any resting-place, of a heartlessness which stopped at nothing, and of an intellect before which the most unmanageable bowed; trusted by nobody and hated by all, and hardly recognizing such a consideration as personal expediency; this medley of profligacy, good taste, selfishness, and generosity, eclipses, in our eyes, her more famous predecessor Peter. This character—the patron of art, science, and education, the originator of a methodical administration of justice, the introducer of vaccination among her subjects, the founder (unless we are mistaken) of the second Foundling Hospital in the world, and the impersonation of cruelty and vice—Mr. Grant has chosen for the foundation of his last historical novel. It is not often that we have to complain of novelists that they do not make their books long enough; but we cannot help thinking a mistake has for once been committed in the present case. Better materials than Catherine's entire reign, we need hardly say, nobody could have had at hand,—all the better for a work of fiction by reason of the frequent absence of certainty as to minutiae. Mr. Grant, however, though he has studied his subject, has selected one little incident, one of the darkest amid a crowd of dark ones, and contented himself with moulding it into a one-volume tale. The incident is this. On the death of Anne, in 1742, her grand-nephew, Ivan the Sixth (styled by Mr. Grant Ivan the Fourth), had succeeded to the throne,—an infant less than a year old—only, however, to be deposed and imprisoned within a few months by Elizabeth. When Elizabeth's successor, Peter the Third, was in his turn deposed and imprisoned by his wife Catherine, the latter found Ivan, now a youth of about twenty-four, a dangerous obstacle to her security; and on the discovery of a conspiracy to restore him to his rights, at once had him privately put to death in his dungeon. Out of this it is that the volume before us is constructed—"the secret dispatch" being the Empress's order for the assassination, sent to the Governor of the State Prison by one of the many British officers then in the Russian service. The perils he went through in carrying his charge from Novgorod to St. Petersburg, the chapter of accidents by which he became betrothed to the sister of the chief conspirator, and the eminently disagreeable complications to which his love-affairs led, interwoven with a few pictures of Russian society, are the sum-total of a book which might with advantage have been three times as long.

As to what there is, we have no hesitation in saying it is worth reading. Probably, indeed, it gains in interest about as much as it loses by want of substance. A little love-tale of only three years' scope, if it is well told, as this is, just melancholy enough to enlist one's sympathies, ending just happily enough not to bring on the blues, and keeping the sentimental part of one's nature on perpetual tenter-hooks by all sorts of life-or-death toss-ups, has something pleasant in its very sound. And as a novel of this kind, it is undoubtedly the most successful the author has produced. As an historical one, we have already expressed disappointment on one ground, and on another point we think there is a want of sound judgment. History put into the persuasive form of fiction ought not to be altered more than is absolutely

requisite for the purposes of art. Not only do all such unnecessary changes prevent a book being of real use, but they are apt to do positive harm by causing it to leave wrong impressions behind. Why, then, should Mr. Grant have gone out of his way to represent the incident on which the whole of his story turns differently from the fact? It would have been just as easy to mould his plot on the true account of Mierowitz's mad conspiracy as on a purely imaginative one; while no interest whatever is added by the gratuitous inaccuracy of representing the conspirators attacking Ivan's prison from without, instead of (according to unanimous authority) taking advantage of their position as the garrison of the fortress itself. In minor details, such as Mierowitz's social grade, the actual origin of his animosity towards Catherine, and in others of little or no importance, the romancer is fairly entitled to his licence; but the best principle on which to go, from step to step, is, that the less deviation there is from fact the better. We should be sorry, however, to convey to anybody the idea that the book is, on the whole, untrustworthy; on the contrary, it contains more than one excellent sketch of Russian social life in the last century.

A London Romance. By Charles H. Ross. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

STANDING in a court close to Drury Lane Theatre, and witnessing a game of hop-scotch played by the children of some of the surrounding houses, Mr. Ross dreamt a day-dream. He pictured to himself the possible future of the players. Of course the boy and girl who were on the same side in the match would fall in love when they grew up, but would they marry? Here is a fine field for speculation, and Mr. Ross has made the most of it. He starts from a very humble beginning, with the family of a stage-carpenter for his chief characters, and a faint chance that one of them may succeed in business. This one has run away from home, in consequence of a slight having been passed upon him; and then he is run over by a fire-engine, and taken up by a queer rich old merchant. In the merchant's service he goes out to the West Indies, but the ship is lost on the voyage; and with that the first period closes. The thread is dropped, and when we take it up again all has been changed. The stage-carpenter has made a fortune in railway shares, and lost it. His wife and daughter, having risen from life in a court to life in a square, are reduced to let lodgings. The two boys, who were the stage-carpenter's nephews, turn up again, the one as a dissenting preacher, the other, after having been shipwrecked and made his fortune, as a sallow, dark-bearded stranger. Ann, as the heroine is named, is engaged to the dissenting preacher; but the sallow stranger is in love with her, and she soon falls in love with some one else. This second period is taken up with amateur theatricals, rivalries, congregational teas, and it ends with the heroine's mock marriage to the man of her choice. In the third period, Ann finds out that she was deceived, leaves her faithless lover, tries to get a theatrical engagement, almost starves, gets an engagement by the help of the sallow stranger, hears on the stage that her lover is dying, comes back to him, is actually married to him, half runs away again, and is at last taken into custody, tried and convicted, on the charge of poisoning him. After that we have an epilogue, in which she reappears, radiant, rich, capricious and heartless, having received a free pardon a few hours before the time fixed for her execution, and being now a popular actress, run after by

managers and worshipped by the theatre-going public. With this Mr. Ross seems to wake up from his day-dream, and the reader becomes conscious that the latter part of it was a nightmare. Indeed, when we get out of the first period, we find that the author has shaken himself free from all the restraints of truth and nature. Extravagance relieved by farce succeeds to careful and sober drawing. There is, no doubt, more attraction in the picture of a brilliant actress than in that of a girl in black stockings playing hop-scotch. A weak, sickly boy, who, instead of joining in the game, sits moping over his book, is not to be compared, in point of interest, with a sallow, bearded stranger, who has made a fortune in some of the unknown regions of the West, and has killed two robbers in a Californian shanty. But the one set of characters is true to life, and the other is not. Mr. Ross has not given his personages any distinctive mark by which they can be traced through changes of fortune. Where are we to find the germ of Ann's heartless and capricious brilliance? The last time we saw her she was a wretched, white-faced felon, trembling at every stroke of the clock. Before that she had been too gay and lively for the dissenting preacher to whom she was engaged, but her feelings were always strong, and they came from her heart. No change in them is even indicated. But Mr. Ross seems to think that any amount of change may take place during the time when his characters are out of sight. He reminds us of the transformation effected in the 'Postillon de Longjumeau,' where the postboy of the first act has suddenly become an opera-singer in the second, and the needlewoman develops with equal speed into a marchioness. This is more the case with the two chief characters than with the smaller ones. But the smaller figures are merely outsiders, and thus bend themselves easily to both change of circumstances and conventionality of treatment. Some of the scenes in the novel are amusing enough, and there is some trace of power in the description of the trial as heard from the passage, and in the picture of the condemned cell. Among the livelier incidents we must mention the appearance of the dissenting preacher on the stage, and his abduction of the heroine. But such detached passages, though there are more that deserve to be cited, do not make a novel.

Memoirs and Correspondence of Francis Atterbury, D.D., Bishop of Rochester. With Notices of his Distinguished Contemporaries. Compiled, chiefly from the Atterbury and Stuart Papers, by Folkestone Williams. 2 vols. (Allen & Co.)

A note in the introduction to these volumes, stating that the Atterbury Papers, preserved by the Bishop's family, had recently been purchased by Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co., led us to hope for something new and interesting in connexion with the Bishop of Rochester's life. Our hope has not been gratified. The editor's industry is great, and worthy of all commendation. He may be said to have produced the dullest book of the whole by-gone year.

We observe that the words "Atterbury Papers" are appended to a vast number of the closely-printed letters and documents in these volumes, but if these form part of the papers purchased by the publishers the latter have bought what is of little value. Some of the letters have been in print for more than a century. What profit can there be in reproducing those which Warburton published at the end of his edition of Pope, in 1752? There is no more touching account of the death of the Bishop's daughter

than that printed in the last century by Mr. Evans, but what is more common? Even the 'British Plutarch' had it, and the three kingdoms read it. They read it still in 'Elegant Extracts,' and similar works. It were fair to use but it is not wise to reproduce such familiar matter in a biography professing to look at past history in a new aspect. Of the present work, the writer says, that "if not quite so picturesque as the familiar one, it possesses the recommendation of being a great deal more true." We must dissent from this assertion. The book is intended to justify Atterbury, and to prove that he was a righteous and much oppressed man. It really leaves him exactly the "rogue" that the slang of the time accused him of being. If possible, we think rather worse of the bishop now than we did before. We deny none of his personal and mental qualities; we do not even question his honesty as Atterbury himself understood it, but in this book he seems to be weaker and less heroic than we had been accustomed to account him.

To a man with befitting qualification, a better subject for biographical detail could hardly present itself than "Atterbury." A plain, straightforward story—a story of boy, man, wooer, husband, father, struggling plotter, and traitor—might be written out of available materials, so as to enthrall its readers. But for such work a first-rate artist is demanded. He should be a man knowing how to reject dull, lengthy documents, and how to select from them matter with which to illustrate his story. Mr. Williams has had the materials at his disposal, but, with all good intentions, he has failed in knowing how to use them. We have cart-loads of very good, but often very old, bricks, instead of a picturesque edifice. Palette, colours, pencils, canvases, are all valuable means to pictorial ends, but only to those who know how to use them.

Mr. Williams, moreover, has the dangerous habit of making remarks, reflections, and illustrative statements, in such a hurry as to leave him unconscious of the results. The Westminster boys of Atterbury's time, it appears, "acquired a familiarity with several of the Latin dramatists, by acting the plays of Terence and Plautus"; as if acting in 'Phormio' or the 'Rudens' would make the actor familiar with Seneca's 'Hercules Furens,' or as if getting up the 'Grande Duchesse' would enable English actors to know all about the 'Misanthrope' or the 'Cid.' At page 141, Vol. I., the Editor speaks of Sir Robert Walpole as "the Yorkshire squire"! Subsequently, leaving the main thread of the story, as he is accustomed to do, till Atterbury almost fades out of the reader's memory, Mr. Williams gives us a remarkable illustration of his knowledge of the men and literature of the period in his novel account of Congreve. He states that "the year 1693 saw at Drury Lane the first representation of 'The Old Bachelor.'" The merit displayed was rewarded by several little government appointments. "Such recompense," says Mr. Williams, "caused him to bring out 'The Plain Dealer' the following year, which he dedicated to his liberal patron, Charles Montagu. Why, 'The Plain Dealer' had then been on the stage nearly twenty years (1674). It is the best known of the plays of Wycherly, who dedicated it, in the finest vein of satire, to the most infamous woman of the day. Mr. Williams might as well have said that Sheridan, stirred by the success of his 'School for Scandal' in 1777, brought out the next year his tragedy of 'Douglas,' which piece of Home's was first acted in London in 1757.

But let us leave the subject of the Editor's

unlucky inaccuracies and shortcomings, and look to the hero of his story. In outline, the narrative amounts to this. Atterbury, born in 1662, the son of a country parson, passed to Westminster and Oxford. He was nine-and-twenty when he was ordained priest. He became one of William's chaplains, lecturer at St. Bride's, and such a High Church preacher as delighted the Jacobites and stirred the wrath of Hoadley. Atterbury was the champion and the idol of Convocation. The reign of Anne was to him an era of triumph. During its course he rose, by various steps, to the dignity of Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Rochester. At the Queen's death he is said to have offered to go down before the palace gates in his lawn sleeves, and proclaim the Pretender; but that, failing to obtain the support he required, he swore—for Bishops and Chancellors did swear in those days—that a good opportunity had been for ever lost. Be this tale true or not, George the First had no more persistent adversary, nor his government a more energetic enemy, than Atterbury, who, of course, had sworn to be faithful to both. The Jacobite prelate was ultimately got rid of by a Bill of Pains and Penalties in 1723, and he never returned from that exile in which he died at Paris, in 1732. The Bishop's claim to sympathy rested solely on the fact that he was condemned rather on suspicion than on evidence; but no doubt existed of his hatred of the new German sovereignty and his love for the Stuarts. He was a dangerous man. In earlier times he would have suffered death; in ours he would have been let alone. The throne of George the First was surrounded by such perils that to banish a man who was silently but surely shaking it was no extraordinary stretch of power, and it cannot convert the Bishop into a hero. The fact is, that Atterbury was not made of the stuff which goes to the building of heroes. He was a pushing, intriguing, ambitious man, from first to last. When a tutor at the University, he poured out his discontent to his father. He longed to be on a larger and more profitable stage. His sire, mingling reproof with counsel, bade him have patient trust in God, and marry a Bishop's daughter. Atterbury obeyed as nearly as he could, and took for wife Miss Kate Osborn, who was believed to be a natural daughter of Sir Thomas Osborn, and who was a pretty girl with a fortune of 7,000*l*.

All our interest in Atterbury is connected with the question of his treason or loyalty. He was a scholar, and as much of a gentleman as his swearing friend, the baronet-bishop Trelawney. He was a brilliant preacher, and he wrote very good sermons, such as Mrs. Delaney loved to read on a wet Sunday. With all this, he would have had no attraction for posterity had it not been for his deprivation and exile for suspected treason to George the First. It matters little whether we are for King George or King James: the question is, whether Atterbury, legally or illegally condemned, was aiding King James after he had taken the usual oaths to King George. The question is set at rest by a letter privately addressed by the Bishop, in 1717, "to James the Third," in which the writer excuses his silence:—"I depended upon it that the best construction would be put upon that silence by one who was well acquainted with the manner in which I was employed," &c. The editor is so hard put to it to exculpate his hero as to plead for him that Atterbury probably had a conviction that the Catholic Stuart had seen the error of his bigotry, and was likely to become a good Protestant! In the following year we find Atterbury drawing back from any participation in open enterprises, but, according to report, influencing others to stand

forward and assume action! In 1720 we find it confessed that Atterbury had been urging his King to seek foreign aid, to regain the throne. The horrors that might follow such an invasion were nothing in his eyes compared with the possible triumph. How hopefully matters progressed in 1722 is indicated in a letter from "James the Third" to the Bishop, thanking him for service rendered, and holding out to him a prospect of "a rank superior to all the rest." The English Ministry were as well acquainted with Atterbury's intrigues as with those of other eminent personages, some of whom served both sides as spies. But Atterbury's strong point was in his prudence. No evidence such as we now possess could be had then. He was perfectly right in claiming to be acquitted. There was no legal testimony against him, and, in default of it, he was not legally wrong in asserting his innocence. Treasonable letters addressed to him had been intercepted and were produced; but he defied his accusers to prove that he had received them, or had written an answer to any of them. Nevertheless, he was condemned, and no man being doubted his culpability. He was banished, and it was made penal to correspond with or to visit him. His own daughter, Mrs. Morice, could not do so without a "sign manual," but this was never refused her. Pope wrote to him to protest his conviction of the Bishop's "innocency"; but *innocency* was a word of double application at this period of the struggle between Jacobite and Hanoverian. Apart from, yet with both, were the High Churchmen of whom Atterbury was the chief, and the holders of High Church principles knew no legitimate King but James. Atterbury went abroad resolute to bring to England, if he could, a Romanist sovereign. We are again told that the Bishop had no doubt of success if he could only give to James "a Protestant bias." This is said by way of apology, but it only makes of Atterbury a fool—which could never be said of him.

Bolingbroke, who had run away from danger, and had entered King James's service, was allowed to return at the very moment that Atterbury, who was to succeed him in James's service, went into exile. They met at Calais, and passed on to their different Courts. "It is an exchange," said the ex-prelate. Of the latter it may be said that he was one of the few men in James Stuart's service who was perfectly faithful to that would-be king. No sort of work appalled him. When the projected expedition of 1725 was a-foot, Atterbury, in Paris, a confidential minister of James, was employing the funds entrusted to him in buying arms, ammunition, biscuit, and brandy; in transporting officers and men to points from whence they were to make a descent on Atterbury's native country. If he could have served the Government of that country by betraying the Pretender, of whom he was the most important minister, Atterbury would have come off as happily as many men who seemed to adhere to James, while they were betraying his secret purposes, as far as they knew them, to George. Atterbury's own letters were intercepted by some of these traitors, and these, says Mr. Williams, "were at once forwarded to Horace Walpole," which, of course, they could not be, as Horace was at that time (1730) nothing more than a boy at Eton.

Naturally, a cause thus betrayed came to nothing. Nevertheless, Atterbury continued to serve it to the last. His many infirmities, and sorrows, and privations did not deter him; he died pen in hand for the Stuart King's service. His body was permitted to be brought to England, but the very coffin was searched for papers before it was deposited in West-

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minster Abbey. His one great sorrow before his death was the loss of his excellent daughter, Mrs. Morice. Dying herself, she set out to meet her dying father, and it was a joy to both that they lived to look on one another for a brief hour or two, for the last time. Atterbury had a son who was a rare specimen of the scamp of his day. Osborn Atterbury was a scandal to a sister who loved and supported him, and a vexation to a father who otherwise does not seem to have troubled himself much about him. Osborn was a vagabond in London streets and taverns, and then a wanderer over the seas. His coming back from a voyage brought terror and disgrace upon his sister's house. His being off to sea again was a cause for her rejoicing. At length he grew tired of it, and Bishop Hoadley, thinking him good enough for the Church, gave him ordination in 1742, and the living of Oxhill, Warwickshire, was conferred on him in 1746. It reminds us of what Atterbury himself said in his controversy with Wake, "Many a man has been written out of character into preference;" a proceeding which Walpole designated as "the sort of martyrdom that great Churchmen do not wince at."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Smoking Fires: their Cause and Cure. By the Rev. Alexander Colvin Ainslie, M.A. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS is a very clever little book, and it should be studied by every one who suffers from the smoke flowing into the room instead of up the chimney. The whole question is examined with much clearness—the rules by which the ventilation of an apartment and its fires are regulated are explained, and the methods by which "the array of hideous contrivances which forms the sky line in almost every London picture," representing a large amount of human discomfort, are ingenious, simple, and without doubt effective, because they are founded on correct principles. "We go on," says our author, "at a great waste of money, temper, furniture, carpets and curtains"—tinkering our chimneys with "the utter absence of an intelligible principle to guide" us. In this small book of eighty pages the principles may be learnt, and thus smoke avoided.

The Law relating to Trade Unions. By Sir William Erle. (Macmillan & Co.)

Sir William Erle commenced this concise analysis of the 'Law relating to Trade Unions' for the guidance of Her Majesty's Trade Union Commissioners. In offering the memorandum to the public, the author says, "In stating the common law, I have aimed to assign some of the reasons for it, both with a view to show that the law is as stated, and also in order to foster loyalty, which increases with the opinion that there is reason for the law. Human life is a progress between two sets of physical and moral agencies perpetually striving against each other—the one on the side of falsehood, malice, and destruction; the other on the side of truth, kindness, and health; and the law, if wisely made and properly administered, maintains truth and kindness and health, and so, among other things, helps persons of honest industry to obey each his own will."

Childhood's Joy; or, To be Good is to be Happy. By Aunt Clara. (Gardner.)

AUNT Clara's story of two little girls and their governess will conduce to childhood's joy, and put little people in the surest road to happiness by teaching them to be good. The lady exhibits cleverness and literary art; her domestic scenes remind us of pleasant hours and sweet experiences in time far behind the present; and Lucy and Florence—the damsels of the narrative—are just such little girls of romantic fiction as the little girls of real life like to read about. 'Childhood's Joy' has appeared too late for the Christmas and New Year's market; but it is in time for distribution with other offerings of St. Valentine. As a gift for mysterious presentation on the 14th of February no better book can be imagined.

Lansdowne Gift Books.—The Daisy and Her Friends: Simple Tales and Stories for Children. By Frances Freeling Broderip. With Illustrations. (Warne & Co.)

AGAIN Mrs. Broderip has produced a charming and beautifully illustrated book for the children's play-room. A little lady, whose opinion we have sought on the matter, assures us that the stories are charming and the verses excellent,—although, adds the infantile critic, it is very absurd to make birds and flowers tell tales and say pieces of poetry to each other, just as if they were boys and girls who had been sent to school.

Ways and Means: a Story of Life's Struggles. By Clara Lucas Balfour. (Tweedie.)

THE chief actors of this story move in the lowliest grades of London poverty, and their struggles result in prosperity and contentment proportionate to their goodness. Miss Balfour has considerable artistic ability, and the lessons of her tale are of unexceptionable morality.

Cast Away in the Cold. By Dr. Isaac J. Hayes. (Low & Co.)

THE author of two such books as 'An Arctic Boat Journey,' and 'The Open Polar Sea,' may well be expected to write an extremely interesting narrative under such a title as that Dr. Hayes has now chosen. It does not detract from such interest that the book is meant for young people, though we have rather too much of the mode in which the original story is supposed to be told, and its hearers are put forward too constantly. Captain John Hardy, mariner, is the autobiographic hero. He was an American boy who ran away from home. After suffering various of those inglorious but thoroughly real martyrdoms which follow upon most nautical apprenticeships, he was released from his ship by its being crushed in the ice. Another boy was saved with him, and together they braved the hardships of two Arctic winters, killing seals and bears, making all kinds of practical implements, and keeping themselves not only alive, but warm, in a way which falls little short of the marvellous. How they made themselves a hut and a storehouse, how they manufactured nets and lines and cooking utensils and spears and harpoons, how they caught seals and stabbed bears, will be an exciting study to English boys in general. We need not add that Dr. Hayes describes all Arctic scenes with much power. The Aurora Borealis is especially vivid. The scenes with the Esquimaux come in aptly to relieve the monotony of the boys' life, and lead up to their rescue.

Curiosities of the Pulpit, and Pulpit Literature. Memorabilia, Anecdotes, &c. of Celebrated Preachers. From the Fourth Century of the Christian Era to the present Year. By Thomas Jackson. (Hogg & Son.)

MR. Jackson has got together a goodly collection of anecdotes which illustrate church and churchgoers: including chapel, conventicle, people, and preachers. The stories are not very new, but they are interspersed with samples of sermons from which many a young hand may take an idea, and if he have wit or genius, may give the idea new shape and original application. It is a book that might have made a supplementary volume to the Percy Anecdotes, having about as much arrangement, and being quite as miscellaneous. To those who are weary now under a half-hour's sermon, it may be some consolation to learn that Barrow sometimes went to the length of three hours and a half! Once, at Westminster, he showed his sermon, before preaching, to the Dean. It was on scandal and lying. The Dean advised him to preach the first half only, on scandal. Barrow consented, and he was then more than an hour and a half about it. When the vergers, on festival days, used to show the tombs to strangers, between the sermon and afternoon service, Barrow was so long, and the hour for the later service was so close at hand, that the vergers, fearful for their fees, contrived to set the organ going, and may be said to have blown Barrow out of the pulpit. The old Westminsters took a better method to cure a preacher whose long sermons spoiled their Sunday's dinner. He had a son at the school, and the lads civilly informed the boy that they would flog him whenever his father preached

beyond a certain brief limited period. The son communicated with the sire, and the latter, being a man with some sense, took the message in silence and shortened his sermons, as required.

We have on our table *Essays and Addresses chiefly on Church Subjects*, by Henry Alford, D.D. (Strahan).—*Sermons for Boys; or, Memorials of Cheltenham Sundays*, by Alfred Barry, D.D. (Cassell).—*The Roman Catholic not the One only True Religion, not an Infallible Church*: being Remarks upon Points of Controversy, a Series of Lectures by the Rev. C. F. Smarius (Tribner).—*Forms of Praise and Prayer in the Manner of Offices for Private Use*, edited by the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Lyttelton (Parker).—*Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, Birmingham Meeting, 1868*, edited by Andrew Edgar, LL.D. (Longmans).—*Leaves from the Poets' Laurels*, Selected, Arranged, and Prefaced by Emma Lady Wood (Moxon).—*Phrenological Stump Orations, Satiric, Comic and Pathetic* (McCallum). New Editions of *Sermons preached before the University of Oxford*, by H. P. Liddon, M.A. (Rivingtons).—*Memoirs of Baron Bunsen, late Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty Frederic William the Fourth at the Court of St. James*, drawn chiefly from Family Papers by his Widow Frances Baroness Bunsen, 2 vols. (Longmans). Also the following pamphlets: *East London Pauperism*: a Sermon preached before the University of Oxford on Sunday, December 20, 1868, by the Rev. Brooke Lambert, M.A. (Parker).—*The Influence of Pass Examinations, with a Scheme for their Incorporation into the Honour Schools*, by R. F. Clarke, M.A. (Parker).—*Life Assurance Companies: their Financial Condition discussed with Reference to impending Legislation, in a Letter addressed to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., by an Actuary (Effingham Wilson).*—*A Letter to Lord Chief Justice Cockburn on his Ex Post Facto Judge-made Law contrary to the Principles of the British Constitution*, by Rigby Wason (Truelove).—*Parliamentary Politics Criticised and an Equitable System of Government suggested*: showing how the Representation of the People may be secured without voting by Majorities, and how the Government may be constituted and its Administration effected without making Laws, by John Frearson (Farrah).—*Our Policy in China*, by Alfred Percy Sinnett (Longmans).—*Who is the Real Enemy of Germany* (Dulau).—*A Commentary on the Chapter of Autobiography by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., by James Taylor (Longmans).*—and from Messrs. Routledge, a set of Books for "little ones," comprising *A Grammar in Rhyme, The Little Hunchback, Baby's Birthday, How Jessie was Lost, Pictures from the Streets, The Enraged Miller, and Puss in Boots*.—To these miscellanies we may add *Stereoscopic Slides*, by Mr. Davis Burton, of various London buildings, such as the British Museum, the Tower, and the Horticultural Gardens.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Addison on the Law of Contracts, by Cave, roy. 8vo. 38/6.
 Alkes' Formation of Christendom, Part 2, 8vo. 12/6.
 Armstrong's (G. F.) Poems, 12mo. 6/6.
 Bateman's Fret Not, and other Poems, 8vo. 7/6.
 Belgravia, conducted by Miss Braddon, Vol. 7, 8vo. 7/6.
 Black's In Silk Attire, a Novel, 3 vols. 8vo. 31/6.
 Book of Scottish Pasquils, 1568-1715, 8vo. 18/6.
 Calendar of Treasury Papers, 1536-7-1598, 15/6.
 Capell's Songs by the Way, or Lonely Musings, 12mo. 1/6.
 Carlyle's French Revolution (3 vols.), Vol. 1, 8vo. 6/6.
 Day's Plates and Notes relating to the Pyramids, roy. folio. 28/6.
 De Pressensy's Church and the French Revolution, 8vo. 9/6.
 De Ravignan's Life, by Father De Ponzioy, 12mo. 9/6.
 Debrett's Illustrated Baronetage and Knightage, 8vo. 8/6.
 Debrett's Illustrated House of Commons, 8vo. 6/6.
 Debrett's Illustrated Peerage, 8vo. 8/6.
 Edwards's (M. Betham) Kitty, a Novel, 3 vols. 8vo. 31/6.
 Ella's Musical Sketches at Home and Abroad, Vol. 1, 8vo. 7/6.
 English Church Calendar, 1869, 12mo. 1/6.
 English Reprints, Latimer's Seven Sermons, 16/6.
 Evenings at Home in Words of God, 12mo. 2/6.
 Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Calendar, Part 1, 8vo. 1/6.
 Godefridi and Short's Law of Railway Companies, 8vo. 32/6.
 Home Thoughts for Mothers and Mothers' Meetings, 8vo. 1/6.
 Homer's Odyssey, Books 8 and 9, in English Verse, by Wills, 8/6.
 Hopkins and Smyth's Choral Faller, 8vo. 3/6.
 Howitt's Northern Heights of London, Hampstead, &c. 8vo. 21/6.
 Hutcheson's Person and Work of the Holy Ghost, 8vo. 10/6.
 Ikhwani's Sa'ad, or the Brothers of Purity, tr. by Platts, 8vo. 10/6.
 Kenington, Lookyer and Leach's Village Wreath, 12mo. 2/6.
 King's School Atlas, 4to. 1/6.
 Legend of St. Augustine, &c. in Carlisle Cathedral, 8vo. 10/6.
 MacNab's Immunity from Consumption in the Hebrides, 1/6.
 Maxims of a Man of the World, 8vo. 7/6.
 Notes and Queries, Vol. 5, Fourth Series, 4to. 10/6.
 O'Connor's Faith and Works, 8vo. 4/6.
 Packet of Pestilent Papers, 8vo. 6/6.
 Peck's Poet of Ballads and Songs, with Notes by Logan, 10/6.
 Perry's Guide to Scottish History, 12mo. 3/6.

Phillip's Hillford Confirmation, a Tale, 18mo. 1/6 cl. limp.
 Phipson's Chronology, 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Quessel's Devotional Commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel, 7/6 cl.
 Railway and Commercial Gazetteer of England, 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Russell's Third Letter to Earl Fortescue, 8vo. 2/6 swd.
 Selkirk's Poems, 12mo. 5/6 cl.
 Startie's Law of Slander and Libel, by Folkard, royal 8vo. 48/ cl.
 Stokes and others' Discourses on Medicine in Modern Times, 7/6 cl.
 Thomson's Memoir and Correspondence, ed. by Smaton, 8vo. 9/ cl.
 Thornton on Labour, its Wrongful Claims, &c., 8vo. 14/ cl.
 Town Talk of Cydia, by Author of 'One Foot in the Grave,' &c. 21/
 Vaughan's Cottage Flats, 4to. 5/ cl.
 Walker's Devotions on the Communion of Saints, 32mo. 2/6 cl.
 Who's Who in 1869, 18mo. 2/6 cl.
 Wilkinson's Short Readings, Advent to Lent, 12mo. 5/6 cl.

TO ÉAIRINÉ.

Éairiné,
 Who had her very being, and her name,
 With the first knots or buddings of the Spring.
 BEN JONSON: *The Sad Shepherd*.

Saint Valentine kindles the crocus,
 Saint Valentine wakens the birds,—
 I would that his power could evoke us
 In tender and musical words!

I mean, us unconfident lovers,
 Whose doubtful and stammering tongue
 No help save in rhyming discoveries—
 Since what can't be said may be sung.

So, fairest and sweetest! your pardon,
 (If no better welcome) I pray.
 There's spring-time in grove and in garden;
 Perchance it may breathe in my lay.

I think and I dream (did you know it?)
 Of somebody's eyes, her soft hair,
 The neck bending whitely below it,
 The dress that she chances to wear.

Each tone of her voice I remember,
 Each turn of her head, of her arm;
 Methinks, had she faults out of number,
 Being hers, they were certain to charm.

From her every distance I measure;
 I think, every step of the way,
 "This road brings me nearer my treasure"—
 "This road takes me further away."

And Love is my journalist also;
 The good days and bad days occur,
 The fests and the festivals fall so,
 By seeing or not seeing her.

So friendly her face, that I tremble,
 On friendship so sweet having ruth;
 But why should I longer dissemble?
 Or will you not guess at the truth?

And that is, dear maiden, I love you!
 The loveliest, brightest, and best!—
 Happy the roof-tree above you,
 The floor where your footstep is prest!

May some new deliciousness meet you
 On every new day of the Spring,
 Each flow'r, in its turn, bloom to greet you,
 Lark, mavis, and nightingale sing!

May kind vernal powers in your bosom
 Their tenderest influence shed!—
 May I, when the rose is in blossom,
 Enweave you a crown, white and red!

W. A.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

14, St. George's Square, Feb. 10, 1869.
 A communication, signed "Master of Arts," which appeared in your "Miscellanea" column of the 21st of November, 1868, could imply a serious charge against Dr. F. E. Hall, librarian to the India Office, "both personally and officially," and has been interpreted in this sense by himself, as results from his reply in the *Athenæum* of the 28th of November, 1868. As the authorship of this communication has been imputed to me, and in a manner which might damage me in the opinion of those who know nothing of me or of Dr. Hall, I request you kindly to give publicity to the following letters and the explanations I have to add to them. I hope, moreover, that the lesson they teach will not be lost.

"14, St. George's Square, Feb. 4, 1869.

"My dear Furnivall,—In the *Athenæum* of November 21, 1868, there appeared, on page 688, a notice headed 'The Hodgson MSS.,' and signed 'Master of Arts,' which could imply that under the management of Dr. F. E. Hall, the librarian to the India Office, MSS. might improperly disappear from the India Office library. This notice

was followed, in the same journal of November 28, 1868, page 716, by a reply from Dr. Hall, in which he explained that such a supposition would be unfounded; in which he, moreover, enlarged on the services he considered himself to have rendered Mr. W. W. Hunter—though they had not been acknowledged by the latter—in the production of his two works, 'Annals of Rural Bengal' and 'A Comparative Dictionary,' &c., and literally states, 'If this letter is his Nemesis, it is not of my [Dr. Hall's] evoking.' I have the strongest evidence, both oral and in writing, that while to some Dr. Hall has denied having the slightest notion as to who the writer of the first-named notice (signed 'Master of Arts') might be, to others he has distinctly named or intended to describe me as being this writer, and in terms, too, seriously reflecting on my character, though I have absolutely nothing whatever to do with this notice, directly or indirectly. Now, as a friend of mine has informed me that you are well acquainted with its history, I should feel obliged to you if you kindly told me all you know about it.—Yours very sincerely,

TH. GOLDSTÜCKER."

"3, St. George's Square, Feb. 4, 1869.
 "My dear Goldstücker,—Though I should not have felt bound to say anything about Hall's denying knowledge of the 'Master of Arts' letter to which you refer, yet, when you write that you have the strongest evidence that Hall names you as the writer of the letter, and a friend of all three of us has told me that Hall abused you for it, the case assumes a different complexion, and I have no hesitation in telling you all that I know of the matter.

"On Sunday morning Hall, who knew that I was an occasional correspondent of the *Athenæum*, came over here, and, in the presence of my wife and a friend, asked me if I would do him a favour and try to get something into the *Athenæum* for him under my name. I said, 'What is it?' He then told me he had been blamed unjustly by several people in consequence of a passage in Mr. Hunter's 'Annals of Rural Bengal,' which he showed me, and which implied that Hall had both improperly let the Hodgson MSS. out of the India Office Library, and was ignorant of their value, when the truth was that he had himself persuaded his friend Mr. Hodgson to give the MSS. to the Library; had then told Mr. Hunter of them; had recommended them to him to write on, and had also procured him the loan of the MSS., and taken due security for their return. Hall said that he had been in every way badly treated by Mr. Hunter, and he wanted to clear himself, and show Mr. Hunter up. He had accordingly written a letter which, if I would adopt or alter, and forward to the *Athenæum*, he could then answer, and say what he wanted to say. It certainly seemed to me that Mr. Hunter had not behaved handsomely, but in order not to act hastily, I asked Hall to leave the Annals and his letter with me, that I might go over both at my leisure. This he did, and accordingly in the course of the following week I re-read the passage in Mr. Hunter's book, and still thought he had not behaved fairly to Hall. But on reading Hall's letter I found it was not expressed in my way, and did not put the subject from my point of view. I, therefore, wrote a letter of my own, with the same intent as Hall's in the main, and giving him the opportunity for a sharp retort against Mr. Hunter. This I sent to the Editor of the *Athenæum*, with a note asking specially for its insertion. The Editor sent it back in proof, with a few lines asking whether the MSS. were safe. I told him that the MSS. were safe, and this I reported to Hall. Next week the letter appeared in the paper, and the week after appeared Hall's answer, clearing himself, and stating (I think) that he had pointed out the MSS. and their value to Mr. Hunter. With my part in the matter I felt quite satisfied, as I had helped to make clear the facts of the case, and taken undeserved blame off Hall's shoulders. Now, however, you tell me that blame has been thrown on you for my act. I do trust that there is some mistake in the matter, and I write to Hall about it. But pray show this to every one who fancies that you wrote my letter, and make whatever use of this you please. Heaven

forbid that I should be unwitting means of having blame cast on you. Ever sincerely yours,
 "F. J. FURNIVALL."

The effect of Mr. Furnivall's letter to Dr. Hall was the following paper, which the latter handed to him for communication to me:—

"Feb. 4, 1869.

"Just after M.A.'s letter appeared in the *Athenæum*, Mr. Trübner asked who could be supposed to have written it. I replied that I had heard it surmised (and I had heard it surmised by two persons), that Dr. Goldstücker might have written it. Mr. T. said that Dr. G. had just heard of Mr. H. or his book. This fact, I replied, was conclusive against the surmise. To no other person have I ever coupled Dr. G.'s name with M.A.'s letter. If others distort my words, or attribute to me what I have never said, let them.

"F. H."

The account which Mr. Trübner, immediately after it had occurred, gave me of this conversation, very materially differs from that of Dr. Hall. A few minutes after Mr. Trübner had left me, I put his account in writing, so as to serve faithfully my memory, if ever required; and now when I addressed to him a special question regarding the latter part of Dr. Hall's version, he corroborated my memorandum by the following reply, dated 8th February:—

"I assured Dr. Hall that he and his friends were mistaken, but so far as I can remember, I left him at the time with the impression that I had not succeeded in convincing him."

Who the two persons are to whom Dr. Hall alludes is of course a secret. But if they are really in existence, I trust they will consider it a duty to come forward and say whether they spontaneously made any such surmise as that mentioned by him; and, if so, whether knowing that Mr. Furnivall was the writer, and he himself the intellectual author of M.A.'s letter, Dr. Hall at once distinctly assured them that they were wrong, or whether he studiously contrived to leave them under their wrong impression. But the following additional facts will show that it is not even necessary to wait till these two persons start into testimony.

An intimate friend of Mr. Bryan H. Hodgson called on Dr. Rost, and told him that, when he last was on a visit to Mr. Hodgson, a letter arrived from Dr. Hall, in which the latter told Mr. Hodgson that the notice in the *Athenæum*, signed M.A., was, or could only have been, written by "a disappointed rival of his in the candidature for the Librarianship." In this statement, then, Dr. Hall not only implied that it was an act proceeding from the basest motives, but could not have been an act of Mr. Furnivall's, since he perfectly well knew that Mr. Furnivall never had been a rival of his in the candidature for the Librarianship. Dr. Rost reported to me in writing this statement of Mr. Hodgson's friend, whom I had then not yet the pleasure of knowing personally; and I, on my part, communicated it to Mr. Furnivall. But when the latter mentioned it to Dr. Hall, he received from him the following reply, dated February 6, 1869, and signed "F. H."—"As to the one or more letters of mine [this plural, if meant as a reference to what I communicated to Mr. Furnivall, is an invention] 'to third parties' [this plural, too, if meant as a reference to my words, is another invention] 'that have been reported or quoted to Dr. G., they never had existence. I write very few letters or notes; and I remember very well what I do write.'

After this bold denial of Dr. Hall, imputing a direct falsehood to Mr. Hodgson's friend, I considered it my duty to introduce myself to the latter gentleman, on the 6th of February, and to communicate to him the whole of the facts. He then not only confirmed the truth of the statement he had made to Dr. Rost, and the accuracy of his report to me, but also read to me a passage from a letter of Mr. Hodgson, written by him when entirely unacquainted with the discovery since made, and which alludes in unmistakable terms to what Dr. Hall had previously written to him of the authorship of M.A.'s letter.

Unless, then, the facts here stated can be explained away by Dr. Hall, it result—(1), That Dr. Hall

first made (under disguise) a charge against himself—one so serious, indeed, that in his reply of the 28th of November, 1866, he bitterly complained of it as “prejudicial to him, both personally and officially,” “provided the specious implications mooted against him had not turned out to be baseless.” (2) That he imputed this charge—made at his own suggestion, for some purpose of his own—to a rival of his in the candidature for the Librarianship.” (3) That in making this imputation he must have misled Mr. Hodgson, to whom he owes not only the highest respect, but even the deepest gratitude. (4) That, not yet satisfied, he denied to Mr. Furnivall the existence of his letters in which this imputation appeared.

TH. GOLDSTÜCKER.

REVIEWS AND REVIEWERS.

THE Rev. S. F. Surtees, rector of Sprothorough, one of our ablest antiquaries, wishes to put on record “the reason why” he and some other students of our national annals “are pursued with such unrelenting sarcasm” in a contemporary which it is not necessary to name. The other students for whom he speaks are Dean Stanley and Prof. Pearson, and the “reason” alleged by Mr. Surtees is so inadequate that we can hardly call it a reason at all.

Mr. Surtees says: “These articles are written by a Mr. Freeman. Now, Mr. Freeman has a monomania upon a certain portion of English history, and to touch upon that point acts upon Mr. Freeman’s pen in the same way that the sight of a red rag is said to do upon a bull.” The Mr. Freeman here cited into court is, we presume, the gentleman who began, during the Civil War in America, to write a ‘History of Federal Government’—a project which died in its birth,—and who afterwards turned his attention to Palgrave’s ‘History of Normandy and England,’ which he thought he might as well re-write. So far, by way of identification. Whether he was the writer of these particular passages, we only know on the authority of Mr. Surtees, and, we may add, of Prof. Pearson.

Mr. Surtees continues his account in illustration: “Dean Stanley, also, in that delightful book, ‘Memorials of Westminster,’ had not taken the same view of this period of history as Mr. Freeman, and so there appears in the —, ‘The book is hardly a book at all.’.....‘The matter is wholly borrowed.’.....‘The historical facts and references are strangely inaccurate.’”

And so, according to Mr. Surtees, it happened to Prof. Pearson likewise. Prof. Pearson, we are told, “had taken, with Palgrave, Leppenberg, and Lingard, a low view of the character of Earl Godwin and his sons, and forthwith appeared an article so offensive in its style as to necessitate a reply from Mr. Pearson, in a pamphlet of a few pages, in which he asks the public to judge whether these ‘insolent personalities’ are creditable or to be desired in the criticism of books. ‘There is, in fact,’ says Mr. Pearson, ‘no other redress for the injured, no other safeguard for public opinion. To the Caliban of Literature cursing in the weekly columns of his paper all who are more fortunate or better gifted than himself, the objects of his rancour can only answer by silence.’”

Mr. Surtees supplies us with some further samples of Mr. Freeman’s style. Thus: “Mr. Pearson’s sins in this way are more than sins of omission; he displays the grossest ignorance of contemporary foreign history.”.....“There is one page which contains a tissue of blunders, for the like of which we must go to ‘Ivanhoe’ or Dean Stanley’s ‘Memorials of Westminster.’” Mr. Surtees, who feels that he is abused in very good company, concludes: “Facts and references are stubborn things, and should be met by argument; at any rate, I am not likely to be put down by sarcasm, or to cease from bowling at the nine pins of history from fear of what Mrs. Grundy may say.”

Our only wonder is that either Prof. Pearson or Mr. Surtees should think it worth his while to defend his laurels against such a censor as Mr. Freeman.

THE CHALMERS TARGET.

THE method of armour-plating invented by the late Mr. Chalmers, and which was never satisfactorily tried during his lifetime, was thoroughly tested at Shoeburyness last week, with a result which would almost have broken the inventor’s heart had he been alive. A target had been made, one part of which was constructed on the plan believed by our authorities to be the best; namely, a thick, solid, outer plate, backed with teak, and having behind the teak a thin, iron skin, with strong iron ribs at the back. The remainder of the target consisted of the combination of wood and iron, invented by Mr. Chalmers, and was weight for weight the same for a given area as the simpler Government target. Instead of a plate 8 inches thick, backed simply by teak, the outer plate is only 4½ inches thick, and the remainder of the iron is distributed in the backing in the form of horizontal plates at small intervals, the intermediate spaces being filled with teak, behind which again come inner plates 2 inches thick, again backed by timber supported by angle-iron; the whole being covered at the back with a thin iron skin.

Different modifications of the system were tried at different parts of the target, but in each the same quantity and weight of materials were employed as in an equal area of the portion having the thick outer plate and simple backing. The different portions of the target were subjected to the same test, being fired at with Palliser shot and shell of 250 lb. weight from a 9-inch gun, at a range of 200 yards, and with full battering charges of 43 lb. The result was a signal success for the simple backing and thick outer plate. In no case was it completely perforated; while in every instance there was complete penetration of the Chalmers portion of the target.

The rounds fired with shells are the most interesting. That at the 8-inch plate with simple backing caused absolutely no damage at the rear of the target, the body of the shell being blown out in front: while those fired at the two different portions of the Chalmers target resulted, in one case, in complete perforation, the shearing of some fifty rivets, and the destruction of an area of some 2 feet of the target; and, in the other case, in the whole rear of the target being burst out over an area of a foot and a half by 2 feet.

We look upon these results as a remarkable success: not that we have any feeling but one of respect and esteem for the memory of the able and zealous inventor of the Chalmers system of compound backing; but that we are heartily glad to see confirmed the opinion we have always held—that the Iron Plate Committee were quite right in their decision, arrived at in 1864, that, “generally, no combination is so good as a solid plate.” That decision was based upon sound experimental data, and has guided us in our construction of iron ships. Our experiments have been costly and protracted, and have served the purpose of other nations besides our own; but they have at least led us in the right direction in the far more costly outlay involved in the building of armoured ships of war.

FOULING OF SHIPS.

Carlton Club, Feb. 6, 1869.

THE proposal of Dr. G. C. Wallich in the *Athenæum* of the 30th ultimo on the subject of cleansing ships’ bottoms is entirely unserviceable and impracticable. In the first place, mussels, barnacles, &c. do not, as asserted by Dr. Wallich, die almost instantly on being placed in fresh water. They have the power of closing their valves, and thus remaining alive either in fresh water or entirely out of water for very many hours. And even if it were practicable to berth a vessel for a day or two in fresh water on her return from a voyage, it would be entirely useless as a means of cleansing her bottom, as though the animals inhabiting the incrustations would die, the incrustations themselves, i.e. the hard calcareous shells, would still remain cemented to the vessel, which would be as foul as ever.

It occurred to me some few months back to examine some vessels which were entirely coated below the water line with *Balanus porcatus*, the

common barnacle. Ten years in fresh water would have no effect whatever in cleansing these vessels. The barnacle itself, the exquisitely-formed little glass hand which is so constantly protruded from the calcareous shell, would die and drop out, while the shell itself would remain cemented to the vessel’s bottom and require just as much time and labour to rub off as though its little tenant still inhabited it.

H. STUART WORTLEY, Lieut.-Col.

DEFERRED EXECUTIONS.

Bottesford Manor, Brigg, Feb. 6, 1869.

IN your review of ‘Horsham and its Antiquities,’ in this day’s *Athenæum*, you reproduce a very old story about a deferred execution. I don’t wish to be understood to assert positively that the circumstances as there set forth are fabulous, as I have no means before me of ascertaining what evidence the author of the book may have had before him, but I do say that I believe it to be in a very high degree improbable that there should be anything more than vague tradition to rest them on. A similar tale is current respecting a criminal, believed to have been a sheep-stealer, who was hanged “some years ago” at Winchester; and a duplicate of this, save that the criminal was a woman-servant, who had dabbled in poisons, has attached itself to the Palatine city of Durham. Her hanging is said to have taken place “about thirty years ago”: see the tales at length in *Notes and Queries*, First Series, vol. iv. pp. 191, 285 (1851). The legend is not confined to this island. Here is a clipping from Mr. Meyrick’s ‘Practical Working of the Church in Spain,’ in proof thereof:—“Murder is not thought much more of here than pocket-picking in England. A young lad committed a murder, was taken immediately, and sent to gaol, where he was two years, and the affair passed from people’s minds. Meanwhile, the lad behaved so very well that the governor of the gaol gave him permission to go out every day to his family, and return to the gaol at night. It was supposed that, his youth being considered, he would soon be set at liberty. Meanwhile, the friends of the murdered man were making up a purse, which they took to the chief authorities living at Grenada, and an order came down for his execution the following morning. The Governor was so shocked that he could not see the boy, but threw up his office: the boy, on returning from his mother’s house in the evening, was taken to the condemned cell, and garrotted the next morning.” (P. 66.)

EDWARD PEACOCK.

ROBERT KEELEY.

FIFTY years ago, the comic actor who has just passed away, close upon three quarters of a century old, had got his foot on the first round of the ladder which he afterwards so rapidly ascended. M. Planché soon took perfect measure of the young player, at all events, fitted him exactly, in the part of *Dash* in ‘Capers at Canterbury,’ brought out at the Adelphi in 1821, in which *Brian O’Boggle* was played by Callahan, *Captain Callahan*, of the Spanish Brigade. Keeley was the favourite of Adelphi and Sadler’s Wells audiences for years. When the Tom-and-Jerry mania was at its highest he played *Jerry* at the Wells, and *Jenny Green* at the Adelphi. The latter was such warrant of his quality that Covent Garden welcomed him to its stage, when the very farces there were acted by players every one of whom was an artist. Keeley was worthy of the brotherhood, though Liston was at the head of the comic department. Those were days when true actors were aware that no part ill became them,—when Macready, for instance, played *Antonio* to Young’s *Shylock*, Keeley bidding his time till he could show himself a better *Sir Andrew Aguecheek* than Liston, created, as it is called, the parts of *Basil* in ‘The Two Gallies Slaves,’ and *Geronio*, the tipping actor, in ‘*Clari*, or the Maid of Milan.’ Of all who played with him in those two pieces, Mr. Meadows and Mrs. W. S. Chatterley are, we believe, his only survivors. Keeley’s *Geronio* was admirable. It was but a “bit,” as stage phrase has it, but he filled the stage with it; and critics saw a man of mind in this

promising performer. All he promised was fulfilled, when he played in the old drama, and acted such parts as *Signor Syllis* and *Timothy*. Still more was his *Costar Pearmain* a realization of all that had been expected from him; but greatest of all was his truly Shakspearian performance of *Sir Andrew Aguecheek*. Shakspeare's foolish knight was never more effectually acted. With that character Keeley may be said to have culminated; but having attained that height, he never declined. In his low comedy characters, he had the rare merit of never being vulgar. There was no coarseness in his humour; even as a shoeblack he delighted but never offended an audience. Let any one read Cibber's description of Nokes, and if he remembers Keeley, the reader will say, "How like my Beverley!" The most foolish character that Keeley played was made perfect by the good sense applied to the representation of inanity. This good sense accompanied Keeley in private life. Like Burbage, his thrift enabled him to live a lord of land. His economy was what the word means—good home-rule, liberality to friends, and a wholesome horror of living above his income. Fast people might call him "near," but Keeley could cheerily sing "My banks are all furnished." The fact is, he acted well on and off the stage. He was something of a wit, and not without a quiet, humorous, philosophical turn. Nothing much disturbed him, except, perhaps, the idea of actors wearing mustachios off and on the stage, whatever part they had to play. To the old player such men were amateurs, or mountebanks, certainly not conscientious artists. To his own thoughts, he gave quiet, quaint expression. When he first heard and saw an "imitation" of his acting, he pleasantly remarked: "Well, if that's like me, I don't think much of it!"

AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.

A piece of news reaches us through the *Missouri Republican* which, if it should prove to be true, is of the highest historical interest. But is it true? The engineers engaged in making the piers of a railway bridge, at St. Louis, to cross the Mississippi, are said to have found an ancient tunnel below that mighty river! Details are given. The tunnel, we are told, "passes under the river to the Illinois shore, and whether it is wholly the work of some ancient race who once inhabited this land, whose interesting remains are strewn so thickly up and down this great valley, or whether it is partly natural and partly artificial, remains to be seen. In any case it is none the less stupendous. The main passage we should judge to be about twenty feet high by fifteen broad, and systematically arched overhead; part of the way by cutting through solid rock and part by substantial masonry. The bottom seemed to be much worn, as if by carriage-wheels of some sort. There are many lateral passages which, of course, we had no time to enter. These are about eight feet high and six feet wide. In the main passage we saw no tools or implements of workmanship; but on entering one of the lateral passages we soon emerged into a large chamber supported by leaning pillars of solid rock when the chamber was excavated. Around the walls of this chamber there were what seemed to be niches closed with closely-fitting slabs, each slab covered with inscriptions in Runic uniform characters which to our eyes bore a marvellous resemblance to those upon the slab in the Mercantile Library, which was brought from the mines of Nineveh. Between the niches were projecting pilasters, with draped Assyrian or Egyptian heads, which presented a most impressive and awe-inspiring effect as they were illuminated by the torch-light. Those sweet, sad faces looked down upon us from the ancient ages, like the souls of the departed."

If this report is not a joke of the "Western Boys," it brings us the most important evidence yet produced of the existence, in ancient days, of a civilized race, in the great valley of the new world. The fact of the tunnel occurring just at St. Louis is suspicious. If the facts are truly stated, an ancient city must have stood on the Mississippi, near to St. Louis, though probably on the opposite bank. If so, the cases of Memphis and Cairo will have found a parallel in the New World. [We wait for

further detail; but we fear the "discovery" is all a joke.]

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

General Sabine, as President of the Royal Society, has sent out cards for two evening receptions which are to be held on March the 6th and April 24th. We are glad to see that these pleasant gatherings are not to be discontinued, notwithstanding that by the pulling down of the west wing of Burlington House, the space available for company is less ample than formerly.

The Chairman of the Associated Arts Institute has issued cards for an evening reception in Conduit Street, on Saturday, February 20.

'The Gladstone Government: Cabinet Pictures, by a Templar,' is the title of a political work which will be published in a few days by Messrs. Hurst & Blackett.

The artists of the London Stereoscopic Company are making a series of studies in illustration of Her Majesty's Tower, for presentation in the first place to the Queen, and afterwards for the public benefit.

Men of letters and men of science will everywhere hear with regret of the death of Lady Murchison, though she has gone from among them in the fulness of years and honour. She was a very good naturalist; and it is well known that her partner, Sir Roderick, was first persuaded by her influence and her accomplishments to devote himself to those scientific studies which have raised him to his present high place.

We have received several communications in reference to Sermon XIV. in 'Changed Aspects of Unchanged Truths,' in the *Athenæum* of the 30th of January. As our remarks appear to have conveyed to more than one a meaning very different from that which we intended, we repeat the substance of them, and add the amplification which seems needed. The author's proposition is, that our every word, deed and thought will at the judgment-day be as visible to all eyes as visible things are to us now; and this he undertakes to prove by science. First, as to our words:—Every word produces pulsations in the air, which will alter the whole atmosphere through all future time. "What is there needed, then, to make every syllable that ever fell from the lips of man a thing which may be read, but just to quicken our powers of perception?" Again, as to deeds:—Light requires time to travel through space. Consequently worlds situated at different distances from our earth will, at this moment, be seeing different eras in our earth's history; and so, "taking them altogether, they contain a panorama of the entire history of the earth." Thirdly, as to thoughts:—there is reason to believe that every thought writes a similar indelible and readable story, "by certain changes which are made upon that strange electric fluid that pervades all space and all things." This is the fairest possible summary of the alleged facts upon which the author founds his conclusion; and knowing that they are borrowed from such authorities as Professor Babbage and (almost verbatim, though without acknowledgment, from) Dr. Hitchcock, we were not likely to impugn them by a few unargumentative lines. What we meant to expose was the application of these scientific theories to the text discussed, "There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; and hid that shall not be made known." His inference that because science proves "every word, thought and deed to trace itself indelibly upon the universe," (the fallibility or infallibility of science not affecting the question,) therefore every past word, thought and deed will be visible to the far-seeing eye of immortality, is surely as illogical and absurd as to conclude that because a hundred stones, thrown in succession into a lake, affect, one after the other, the whole surface of the water, therefore each separate effect can be traced after the hundredth is thrown. Beyond all doubt, assuming the scientific theories in question to be true, the countless worlds around us contain between them "a panorama of the entire history of the earth"; but there is a wide gulf of unauthorized

dogmatism between this logical consequence and the conclusion that our world will on some future day present to the eyes of an assembled multitude all the waves and ripples caused by centuries of "thoughts, deeds and words," in indelible stereotype, without one being affected by its successor. It is of this application of "scientific truth," and not the scientific truth itself, that we venture to style A. K. H. B. "the first and true inventor."

We are very glad to hear that the Rev. Alexander Dyce—notwithstanding his illness, which has been aggravated by the damp season—is just completing his edition of the works of Ford, the dramatist.

A beautiful little inedited MS. of some Latin poems by Skelton to Prince Henry—afterwards Henry the Eighth—in 1501, has been lately added to the Catalogue of the Additional MSS.

We hear that 29,000 volumes were added last year to the Printed Book Department of the British Museum. The Museum Library is now far the finest in the world, and is every year becoming worthier of its pride of place. Englishmen generally do not know either its extent or its merits. Has any reader of ours ever heard one of his countrymen, when bewailing the inferiority of our Art-collections to those of Venice, Dresden, Munich, or Paris, console himself with the reflection that, in the more valuable treasure of books, our Museum is superior to the national library of any other city—any two or three of them put together, we may say?

We observe that, in the course of the Subscription Concerts which Mr. Kuhe is about to commence at Brighton, Mrs. Stirling will read the 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' the music incidental to which, by Mendelssohn, will be performed. It is not a play calculated to show a reader's power, subservient as it must be to the music; but yet no small treat may be looked forward to in hearing a reader so gifted as Mrs. Stirling.

The Treasurer of the Shakspeare Club at Nottingham is about to arrange with the trustees for an annual prize to be given for the best examination paper on one of the plays of Shakspeare, the prize to be called the "Newham Prize," in honour of Samuel Newham, Esq., J.P., the first President of the Club.

Prof. Owen, in the recently published third volume of his 'Anatomy of Vertebrates,' has a chapter on Life and Species, in which he says,— "At the acquisition of facts adequate to test the moot question of links between past and present species, as at the close of that other series of researches proving the skeleton of all vertebrates, and even of man, to be the harmonized sum of a series of essentially similar segments, I have been led to recognize species as exemplifying the continuous operation of natural law, or secondary cause; and that, not only successively, but progressively—from the first embodiment of the vertebrate idea under its old Ichthyic vestment until it became arrayed in the glorious garb of the human form." And, again, that the result of extensive, patient and unbiased inductive research "swayed with him in rejecting the principle of direct or miraculous creation, and in recognizing a natural law, or secondary cause, as operative in the production of species in orderly succession and progression." As some of our readers are aware, Prof. Owen is now travelling in Egypt in attendance on the Prince of Wales; so that fortunately for him (his health not having been good of late) he is out of the way of the criticism and controversy which his book will provoke. By the time of his return to the British Museum (with, we hope, renovated health), he will perhaps see in a definite shape the issues that may have been raised during his absence.

Mistakes are often made by non-Welshmen in the use of the words "Cymru" and "Cymry." These terms are often treated as identical, whereas *Cymru* means Wales, and *Cymry* means Welshmen, *Cymro* being a Welshman. *Cymraeg*, the feminine adjective, is used as a noun for "the Welsh language," the feminine noun *iaith*, language, being understood. *Cymreig*, the adjective "Welsh," is common in gender. A Welshwoman is *Cymraes*.

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In the Registrar-General's bill of mortality for 1868 we find that 203 persons were killed by horses or vehicles in the streets of London during the year. Of this number 120 were 20 years of age and upwards, the remainder were from under 10 and up to 15 years. Now it is well known that most of these are deaths which need not have happened, and that they are the consequence of reckless or of unskilful driving. Every year the question becomes more important—can nothing be done to prevent this deplorable waste of life? and its importance is heightened by the fact that for one person killed there are three or four knocked down, some of whom are crippled for life. The sum total of sorrow and suffering inflicted is therefore great, and the fact is not creditable to our police regulations. Cannot drivers be made to understand that foot-passengers on a recognized crossing have a clear right there, that they are not to be compelled to run, and that vehicles must stop or drive slowly? Persons who attempt to cross at places other than recognized crossings will do so at their own peril, and consequently be wary. The subject demands the immediate attention of the new Chief of Police or of the new Parliament.

Flames are issuing from Tongariro, a snowy mountain in the North Island of New Zealand.

The Bishop of Natal has met with two severe accidents. The first was a fall from his horse; he was stunned for a moment, but Mrs. Brooks, his daughter, helped him up, and he was able to ride home some five miles. After a few days' rest he recovered. The second happened at the end of November, as he was coming home after a visitation. Being delayed in consequence of the slippery state of the roads, he found himself on the further side of the river, above three miles from home, after dark. Fortunately, his friend, Mr. Kirkman, was with him passing the ford. The Bishop's horse got into a hole some ten feet deep; the river being swollen, and the current strong, he was washed off the back of his horse, and rolled over some thirty or forty yards. Mr. Kirkman, who is a good swimmer, went into the river and brought the Bishop out, but unfortunately on the wrong side of the river. After a short rest, with the assistance of some native men and women, he crossed the river again, and at length reached his home, supported by a native on each side. When the mail left on the 11th of December he had perfectly recovered.

The British Archaeological Society of Rome has been very active of late in the Eternal City, where excavations are going on steadily. During the month of January a pit has been dug on the line of the wall of Servius Tullius, between the Celian and the Aventine; parts of the wall and of the aqueducts by the side of it have been exposed to view, and left open for the present. Another pit has been dug in the Circus Maximus, and a part of one of the galleries, with a staircase, brought to light; only the rough stone foundation remains, all the cut stone has been carried away. This pit has been filled up, but the surface of the stone remains exposed. Another excavation has been made in the sand on the bank of the Tiber, showing considerably more than was before visible of the Tufa wall, called "the Pulchrum Litus of the Kings." This is at the "Porta Leone," and exactly opposite the lions' heads of Etruscan character, in the cliff on the side of the river, at the upper end of the Port of Rome. The excavations made by the Baron Visconti are at the lower end of the Port. The lions' heads were discovered by Mr. Parker two or three years since. The proceedings of the Society have excited a good deal of attention and emulation. The Corporation of Rome has voted 600*l.* for continuing the investigations of the Mamertine Prison in the Channel commenced by the Society. Three of the Roman Princes have combined for a like object, and commenced excavating another part of the wall of Servius Tullius, near the Railway Station. It is to be hoped that these proceedings will be as well directed as those of the British Society, which have already thrown considerable light on several vexed questions in the historical topography of Rome, especially the true sites of the Porta Capena, the

principal chambers of the Mamertine Prison, the Luperal of Augustus, and several reservoirs of the Aqueducts, previously unknown; also on the source of the Aqua Appia and Aqua Virgo, and to a considerable extent the line of their subterranean conduits.

In consequence of the extension of communication in Asia Minor, we now sometimes get news from the interior, and strange news. Branch banks and the electric telegraph are doing their work. From Isabarta (Sparta of Pisidia) we learn that for some days there was a strong smell of sulphur in the atmosphere. This was not accounted for: intense cold had prevailed in many parts; snow had fallen in Smyrna for the first time for ten years, in Mitylene, where it had been unknown,—and in Akshehr (Thyatira). It was said that in that neighbourhood sixty of the country people had been frozen to death, and in Smyrna three. In consequence of the railways, postal reform was going on in the Smyrna district. New post-offices were to be opened at the railway-stations, and new branch posts; the postage to railway-stations to be reduced to twopence, and to other places to threepence. Newspaper postage to be reduced to a halfpenny, as it is expected to be here.

The late volcanic eruptions and geological disturbances in Hawaii appear to have been peculiar, as described by the Rev. Titus Coan. In one place the sea lies four feet deep in cocoa nut groves which were formerly at a distance from the water; in another, a beach of lava sand has been driven in among cocoa nut trees two hundred feet; in other places, the trees are buried eight to ten feet in sand, and the shore line is pushed in a hundred feet; and at Kalapana, the tide now rises and falls within the walls of a church that stood two hundred feet from the water. The eruption itself was short and fierce, and the lava streams rushed down so rapidly that cattle grazing in the pastures were surrounded by the fiery flood before they had scented danger. Some were scorched to death; but here and there small green patches were left untouched, with ten or twenty kine still alive. Houses, with their inmates, also escaped burning, though surrounded by the molten stream as high as the roof-tree; from which it may be inferred that the lava cooled rapidly. All this was followed, on August 8th, by a most awful thunderstorm, which continued from noon till midnight. The air felt like hot steam, and white streams of lightning ran flashing along the ground. Then, from the 14th to the 16th, the tidal disturbances were witnessed which communicated to all the shores of the Pacific evidence of the terrible earthquake in Peru. During those three days the sea rose and fell from three to six feet once in ten, fifteen, or twenty minutes.

An interesting collection of early British, Anglo-Saxon, and English coins formed by the late Richard Whitbourn, Esq., of Godalming, has just been sold by the Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge. It contained many coins of very great interest in the British and Anglo-Saxon series. The most important of the collection, both to the Student of History and the Numismatist, was a gold coin of Epaticus, *rev.* TAS-CIF. so well preserved as probably to be the finest early British coin in existence. So fine and spirited is the work on this piece that some Numismatists deem it to be the production of a Greek artist. It sold for 50*l.* (Taylor).—A silver coin of Eggebeort, son of Offa, 37*l.* 10*s.* (Webster).—Æthelheard, Archbishop of Canterbury, 15*l.* (Barrell).—Eggebeort, a very fine specimen, 24*l.* 5*s.* (Webster).—Aelfred, 16*l.* (Taylor).—Another of Aelfred, of the Exeter Mint, 22*l.* 10*s.* (Taylor).—An Angel of Edward VI., 21*l.* 10*s.* (Taylor).—A Sovereign of Elizabeth, 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* (Lake Price).—A Noble or Rial of the same Queen, 22*l.*.—A Two-shilling piece of Oliver Cromwell, 10*l.* (Johnstone). The collection produced 1,074*l.*

On the following day, the same auctioneers sold a small cabinet of Greek and Roman coins, which included a very rare coin of Philip V., on the obverse a Macedonian Buckler, ornamented with stars, 44*l.* (General Fox).—A Silver coin of Monunius, King of Dyrrhachium, 15*l.* 15*s.* (Addington).—Abydus Troadis, with head of Diana, 29*l.* (Gen-

eral Fox).—A Silver coin of Magnesia Ionia, *rev.* Apollo standing, naked, on the Mæander, &c., 48*l.* (Josephs).—Smyrna, *rev.* Homer seated, &c., 30*l.* (General Fox).—Cos Insula, having on the obverse, Apollo with Tambourine, dancing before a tripod, 65*l.* (General Fox).

The SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES BY THE MEMBERS IS NOW OPEN. 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s.* Gas on dark days. WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS, 53, Pall Mall, WILL CLOSE ON SATURDAY, the 27th inst. Exhibition of Sketches, &c.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.* Daily from Nine till Six. JAMES FAHEY, Sec.

GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The EXHIBITION IS OPEN daily, from 10 till 6.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.* Gas at dusk. GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.—EXHIBITION OF WORKS NOW OPEN.—Gallery, 9, Conduit Street, Regent Street. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s.*; Catalogue, 6*d.*

MR. MORREY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 24, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Rosa Bonheur—Charles Stanfield, R.A.—Meissonier—Almas-Tadema—Gérôme—Frère—Landelle—T. Fied, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Flickersgill, R.A.—Ernst, R.A.—R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Adderley—George Smith—Linnell, sen.—Peter Graham—Oakes—H. W. B. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

Mr. CHARLES DICKENS'S FARWELL READINGS.—The SECOND COURSE will be continued in ST. JAMES'S HALL, on TUESDAYS, February 16 and March 2. To commence at eight o'clock.—On Tuesday Evening next, February 16, Dr. Marigold and Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party (from "Pickwick").—Prices of Admission: Sofa stalls, 7*s.*; Stalls, 5*s.*; Balcony, 3*s.*; Admission, 1*s.* Tickets at Chappell & Co.'s, 59, New Bond Street; Keith, Prowse & Co.'s, 45, Cheapside; and at Austin's, 25, Piccadilly.

DOCTOR MARIGOLD and Mr. BOB SAWYER'S PARTY (from "Pickwick"), TUESDAY NEXT, February 16.

LENTEN LECTURES ON ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY, at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Prof. Pepper will commence his Annual Course on Monday next, the 15th, at Three. Subject: Spectrum Analysis; and the latest Researches of William Huggins, Esq., F.R.S.; On the Spectra of some of the Stars and Nebulae; and on the Spectra of the Sun and Comet 11, 1868. N.B.—The Lecture will be repeated Friday, February 19th, at Three. The other Lectures will be duly announced.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 4.—Dr. W. A. Miller, V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were read:—"On Fossil Equine Remains from Central and South America referable to *Equus conversidens* (Ow.), *Equus Tau* (Ow.) and *Equus Arvidens* (Ow.), by Prof. Owen."—"Compounds Isomeric with the Sulphocyanic Ethers. 111. Transformation of Ethylic Mustard Oil and Sulphocyanides of Ethyl," by Dr. Hofmann.—"Sur les Protubérances solaires, in a Letter to Dr. Warren De La Rue," by M. Janssen.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Feb. 8.—Sir H. C. Rawlinson in the chair.—The following new Fellows were elected: K. T. Digby, M.P., Prof. T. H. Huxley, R. O'Shaughnessy; Viscount Southwell; C. H. Stanton; and Sir W. Yardley.—The papers read were: "On Soundings and Temperatures in the Gulf Stream," by Commander W. Chinn, R.N. The author gave the principal results of the investigations he undertook in the Gannet, in July, August and September last year, at the direction of the Hydrographer to the Admiralty. The part of the Atlantic examined was within and beyond the northern edge of the Gulf Stream to the south of the Newfoundland bank, and thence towards the Azores. The greatest depth found was 2,700 fathoms. The area indicated by Maury as of unfathomable depth was sounded, and bottom obtained at 1,450 fathoms. Several soundings were taken over the part denominated on the charts the Milne or Sainthill Bank, and deep sea invariably found in the locality. The temperature of the sea below the current of the Gulf Stream (lat. 44° 3', long. 48° 7') was found to be 43° Fahrenheit, at 50 fathoms, and 39½° at 1,000 fathoms, the surface being 61°. Further east (long. 37° 47', lat. 43° 43'), where the sea surface was 69°, the temperature at 100 fathoms was 59°, and at 1,000 fathoms 43°: this latter was about the general temperature at the greatest depths. The author entered into great detail regarding the remains of minute organisms brought up by the sounding-rod from the sea-

bottom, and which he had examined under his microscope and made elaborate drawings of. The conclusion to which he had arrived was, that no living creature existed at those great depths, all his specimens being dead, and many cases having their cavities filled with inorganic particles.—'On a Prevalent Error regarding the Gulf Stream,' by Mr. A. G. Findlay.—The object of the author was stated to be to lay before the meeting a sketch of what was actually known by surveys of the dimensions of the Gulf Stream at the point of its greatest warmth and velocity, namely, between Florida and Cuba; and to show that its magnitude and force were beyond all doubt insufficient to carry it to the shores of Europe, and distribute the influence of the tropical heat over so large a surface. According to the measurements given by the United States Survey, the actual sectional area of the Gulf Stream in Florida channel was not more than from five to eight square miles. It was proved by Commander Craven, in 1855, that the maximum depth of the sea between Cape Florida and the Benini Isles, a distance of 45 miles, was only 300 to 370 fathoms, and the temperature of the water near the bottom only 49°, so that here the warm water does not extend more than one-third or one-half the entire depth. The whole bulk of water above 70° from the Florida narrows would not make a film 50 feet thick off Newfoundland. Having reached this point, moreover, another phase is arrived at. It here encounters the arctic current coming down the coast of Labrador, which interlaces its many belts of cold water with corresponding belts of the warm Gulf Stream. This cold current cuts off the further progress of the Gulf Stream proper, that is, the sharply defined western strip of current. The eastern stream, which blends with the general waters of the Atlantic, originates in, and is propelled northwards by, the prevalent southerly winds in the Atlantic; and it is the oceanic drift thus formed, and not the Gulf Stream, that brings the cocoa-nuts and tropical waifs and strays to northern shores.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Feb. 4.—Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.—E. P. Shirley, Esq., exhibited a Roman fibula found in digging stone in the parish of Tredington, Warwickshire.—J. A. Pearson, Esq., exhibited photographs of a silver cross bearing the insignia of the Knights of Malta.—A. W. Franks, Esq., exhibited a large collection of bronze implements, weapons, and ornaments which he had brought from Denmark, and gave remarks in their elucidation.—W. M. Wylie, Esq., communicated a paper on a curious bronze car, now in the Museum at Vienna, and which had been found in Transylvania in 1832.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—Jan. 20.—Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., in the chair.—Dr. Birch read a paper 'On the Trilingual Inscription of San,' in which he described, at considerable length, the discovery by Prof. Lepsius, of a new trilingual tablet at San, resembling the Rosetta stone in its nature, but of greater extent; a fact of the highest importance in Egyptology, for this reason, that it confirms in all essential particulars the system of Young and Champollion, whereby the hieroglyphics have hitherto been read. This remarkable inscription was pointed out to Prof. Lepsius by one of the engineers on the Suez canal, and Lepsius discovered it after a brief search under a fallen wall.

HORTICULTURAL.—Feb. 9.—Annual General Meeting.—Mr. J. Bateman in the chair.—Three new Members of Council were elected, viz.:—H. S. H. The Prince Teck, Lord Lonsborough, and the Rev. J. Dix.—The Report was read by Mr. Richards, the Assistant-Secretary.

LINNEAN.—Feb. 4.—G. Bentham, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. Carruthers exhibited a male cone of the *Encephalartos latifrons*, which had been produced in the collection of James Yates, Esq., of Lauderdale House, Highgate. It possessed characters by which it might be distinguished from the cones of *E. horridus*, to which species it had been referred as a variety, by Miguel and De Candolle.—The following papers were

read: 'On the Stone-Grasshopper of Graham's Town, South Africa,' by Mrs. Barber, 'Catalogue of Ceylon Spiders,' Part I, and 'Descriptions of Two New Species of Araneida, with Characters of a new Genus,' by the Rev. O. P. Cambridge, 'List of Spiders captured by Dr. Wright in the neighbourhood of Luca, with Characters of new or little-known Species,' by Mr. J. Blackwall, 'Remarks on several Genera of Annelides, belonging to the Group Eunicea,' by Dr. W. Baird, 'Observations on Lichens collected by R. Brown, Esq., in West Greenland,' by Dr. W. L. Lindsay.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Feb. 1.—Mr. H. W. Bates, President, in the chair.—The President returned thanks for his re-election, and nominated as his Vice-Presidents Messrs. Pascoe, F. Smith and A. R. Wallace.—Mr. E. Saunders exhibited a specimen of *Pachetra Leucophaea*, captured by Mr. N. E. Brown at Redhill.—Mr. A. G. Butler exhibited a drawing, and read a description of a new species of *Hestina*, from India.—A letter was read from Dr. Butterfield, of Indianapolis, offering to exchange Lepidoptera of Indiana for those of England.—Mr. Pascoe made some observations on the Coleopterous genera *Aprostoma*, *Mecodanum* and *Gemmyloides*, and exhibited a curious bug from the neighbourhood of Toulon, which he had been unable to find described in the work of M. Mulsart.—Prof. Westwood gave a detailed account of the *modus operandi* of the new vine-pest *Rhizaphis*.—Mr. Horne exhibited the stings of two scorpions which had been killed by a rat. In India rats constantly attack the scorpions, and usually eat them; in the present case the rat and scorpion had been placed under a glass, and after considerable fencing the rat succeeded in biting the sting of the scorpion through the middle, then placed its foot upon the scorpion and began to pull off its legs.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Feb. 3.—C. Tomlinson, Esq., in the chair.—The paper read was, 'On the Useful Application of Waste Products and Underdeveloped Substances,' by Mr. P. L. Simmonds. Feb. 8.—'On Painting' (Cantor Lecture), by Mr. S. A. Hart.—Lecture II. 'On the Practice of Portrait Painting.'

STRO-EGYPTIAN.—Feb. 2.—W. H. Black, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. Bonomi read part of a translation from an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, by Mr. A. Maury, respecting the advancement of Egyptian discovery. He also exhibited two Abyssinian books, the property of W. Simpson, Esq.—A merchant from Bokhara exhibited some scimitars with beautiful Arabic inscriptions on the blades.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Asiatic, 8.—'Hindû Chronology,' Mr. Ferguson.
- Entomological, 7.
- Architects, 7.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Suggestions offered by Circumstances to Artists,' Mr. Hart. (Cantor Lecture.)
- Tues. Horticultural, 3.—General Meeting and Lecture.
- Royal Institution, 3.—'Fine Art,' Prof. Westmacott.
- Anthropological, 8.—'Loomariaker,' Dr. Charnock and Mr. Lewis; 'Physical Characteristics of People of Europe,' Dr. Beddoe; 'Remains at Carnac,' Dr. Hunt.
- Statistical, 8.—'Cost and Organization of Civil Service,' Mr. Mann.
- Engineers, 8.—'Lagoons, &c. of Shores of the Mediterranean,' Prof. Ansted.
- Wed. Society of Arts, 8.—'Efficiency, &c. of National Army and Industry, &c. of the People,' Mr. Cole.
- Literature, 8.—'Ancient War-Ships,' Mr. Lindsay.
- THURS. Royal Institution, 3.—'Involuntary Movements,' Dr. Foster.
- Linnean, 8.—'Firoidde,' Dr. Ratray.
- Royal, 8.
- Antiquaries, 8.—'Tomb of Rufus, Winchester,' Rev. J. G. Joyce.
- Fri. Royal Institution, 8.—'Female Poisoners of Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries,' Mr. Williams.
- Geological, 1.—'Anniversary.'
- Philological, 8.—'Sanskrit Prefixes,' Prof. Goldstücker.
- Sat. Royal Institution, 8.—'Hydrogen,' Dr. Odling.

FINE ARTS

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE Royal Academicians have decided upon several improvements which are to be carried out in their new premises and forthcoming Exhibitions. Among these will be painting the walls of the galleries of a deep maroon red, a tint which has been chosen after much inquiry and several experiments: grey and a mixed tint that is called

'pheasant's egg,' and was much commended by Sir E. Landseer, found favour for a time with many. These and a tawney hue were among the colours which were considered. The colour to be adopted is important, owing to the intention of the Academicians not to hang pictures at so great a height as before, and, whenever it may be thought fit, to isolate or group paintings by discontinuing the old practice of placing them frame to frame throughout. Thus the spaces above the topmost lines of pictures will be exposed, and, whether pictures be grouped or hung singly, the wall behind will be displayed. Another improvement will be the placing in the Catalogue a plan of the galleries, so as to facilitate reference. We may suggest that, as the number of pictures in each room must vary from year to year, according to the sizes of the canvases and the extent of the intermediate spaces, it would be handy if these plans indicated the numerical scope of the contents of each room in the respective years. Thus, if the Great Room contained from No. 1 to 500, let thus much be stated, and changed according to the changed circumstances. We understand that the size of the Catalogue is to remain unchanged. We think it could not be better, and should prefer to the present or any other that mode of arranging the contents of the Catalogue which obtains in the National Gallery, South Kensington Museum, London; the Edinburgh and Dublin National Galleries; the French Gallery, and elsewhere in England; also in nearly every national or private continental picture-gallery, including the Louvre and Paris Salon: this is, the placing of all the works of each artist in a group, and the groups in alphabetical order, with progressive numbers, from No. 1 by A. A., to No. 50,000 by Z. Z. The sole objection to this otherwise thoroughly convenient mode of disposing the Catalogue, i.e., the necessity it imposes upon those who work in numerical and consecutive order through the entire Exhibition, from No. 1 to No. 50,000, of turning the leaves with each shift from name to name, will be in a great measure got over by the new plan of grouping pictures, in respect to which all the works of the respective artists will, of course, naturally and frequently fall together, so to say, on the walls of the Exhibition, and thus these positions, as well as their numbers, will be adjoining and sequential, and, so far, the turning of leaves will not be required. It still remains undecided, as we understand, whether or not to permit the sale of refreshments within the Exhibition. That the convenience of visitors should be so far consulted admits, we hope, of no second question. Hitherto a visitor must have starved in the Academy, or have left it and paid again for admission if he wished to return. This process is tiresome, and raises, as a friend says, the price of a bun from a penny to threepence, besides the loss of time it imposes. Simple refreshments would be all the most of us desire, but the old, unaccommodating practice ought to cease when the Academy is able to spare room for the purpose without intruding tea upon æsthetic studies, or degrading the poetry of painting with pork pie. The South Kensington Museum, with its varied and popular graces, and the British Museum, with its graver studies, have admitted 'refreshments' as necessities of human life. Why should not the Royal Academicians be as considerate for their holiday crowds as the authorities of the British Museum show themselves to be of their students? The Royal Academy is a place for holiday-making folks and students of the lighter order; it is visited, however, by many whose duty is laborious, and who represent absent thousands. These are the critics, whose work must be performed, if the present obstructive rule with regard to them continues, under great and needless disadvantages. We speak for ourselves in protesting against such a continuance. The excitement and uproar of a crowd are not deterrent on a reporter as he gathers his facts about a fire or a murder; but the critic's work is of a very different order, and he deserves different treatment. Do the Royal Academicians believe that reporters' and critics' tasks are performed indifferently by the same persons?

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THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.

ALTHOUGH we cannot assert that many signs of solid improvement are visible in this year's gathering of this Society, it is certain that a general view of the mass is more pleasing than before. This effect is due to the increased brightness of a large proportion of the works, which look as if they had been studied with greater regard than usual for natural atmospheric effects. Out-of-door nature is more frequently and vividly rendered than we remember to have seen it here.

Among the noteworthy specimens of the ladies' art may be named the works of Mrs. E. M. Ward, *A Sleeping Child* (No. 269) and *Sleeping Children* (270), two life-like and capably drawn studies; also, the more important oil-painting, *The Young Sailor* (427)—a handsome, bright-featured lad with a toy boat. The last is among the most pleasing of the artist's pictures of youth.—Other figure-pictures of note are *Interruption* (249), by Miss R. Coleman; a cleverly-wrought but sadly imperfect sketch of a damsel in the act of looking up after reading. The expressiveness of the face is such that we think it would be worth Miss Coleman's while to study heartily, and, in doing so, to expect an equal reward to that which similar labours would bring to Miss H. Thorneycroft, whose girl's head, named, we know not why, *Barbara* (294), has inexplicable but distinctly-marked expression: we have not yet seen more carefully wrought pictures by Miss H. Thorneycroft.—Among oil paintings, Miss E. Partidge's large, effective, and freely-handled half-length sketch of a lady, styled *The Peacock Fan* (448), has dashing qualities which compel attention that is not rewarded by the result of close examination. Of what is called brush-power, this is, however, by far the best example here.—Miss Starr sends *A Study* (440)—the rightly-styled half-length of a man in a cloak, and looking over his shoulder in the Vandyke fashion. This is a study made in a painting-school, solely with a view to modelling and the attainment of brush-power by the student: allowing for these aims, we regret that the colour is crude and the flesh opaque.—Why is Miss S. M. L. Taylor's *Hard Times* (372), a well-considered picture of an operative's family in distress, so wonderfully grimy?—From opacity in painting and dullness of colour Miss K. Swift appears to be delivering herself. *The Happy Mother* (422)—a German domestic scene, which might have been executed by a German artist, is in point to this effect. Miss Swift has evidently indulged a pictorial "weakness," which is rare in the school she affects, for the painting, as a matter of technical pleasure, of the cradle in this work. May she condescend still more to our wish, and end in painting a baby. Meanwhile we pray her to practise on babies in private, and eschew yellow ochre, raw umber, and the like pigments; also to remember that rose-madder and other materials are available by nature-loving artists. At present she thinks there is nothing like leather, but, from Fra Angelico to Mr. Millais, including Titian, Velasquez and Rubens, authority, to say nothing of nature, is against her.—Miss A. M. Thorneycroft's picture of a melancholy damsel in a light-silk dress, called *The Withered Rose* (404), comprises in a curiously faded sort of colouring much that is pictorial with a great deal of the affectation of study in arranging and painting the draperies: thus, the lady's "skirt" looks like a piece of sculptor's drapery, but does not "account for" the forms beneath it.—We commend Miss E. C. Collingridge's "*A Fair Philosopher*" (388), as a promising picture.

The landscapes by Mrs. Marrable (331 to 344), from the little-studied and very beautiful Engadine Hills, display rare powers in dealing with the picturesque, a large sense of atmospheric effects of various kinds, and much fidelity to nature. That these drawings lack solidity in handling is more than elsewhere obvious in the rocks of the foregrounds and nearer trees. The best of the series is *Twilight at Chiavenna* (342); secondly, may be placed *The Bernina Fall and Morteratsch Glacier, near Pontresina* (331); thirdly, where all are more or less excellent, comes *Pontresina* (333). These drawings were, we understand, executed with great rapidity, and mainly from nature direct. They need but to be

"carried further," as painters say, to produce complete success.—A very careful and brilliantly lighted, but rather hard drawing is Miss Brodie's *Durweston Bridge, near Blandford* (45).—Miss F. Davis's *Welcombe Mouth, North Devon* (71), the meadows of a delta, with hills above them and the sea beyond, is of the same class with the last, and has equal merits with less hardness.—Miss L. Rayner has achieved reputation by means of numerous and powerful, but rather mannered and heavy studies of old and quaint buildings, their interiors and furniture, and their exteriors as grouped in narrow lines. For the last the wynds of Edinburgh have supplied models of unquestionable griminess and strangeness. See, for one of the better examples of this kind, *Blackfriars Wynd, Edinburgh* (85), also *A Little Bit in Edinburgh* (211), and, from another locality, *Pepper Alley Row, Chester* (209). As a satisfactory "interior," by the same, notice *James the First's Bed-room, Knoke* (210). Miss Rayner's paintings are vigorous, but they need clearness of effect and purity of colour to be worthy of her genuine love for nature and the picturesque. The whole of the series, which comprises paintings numbered from 202 to 215, will reward the observer.—That almost characteristic lack of "solid" workmanship which is too frequently obvious in the drawings of the ladies, and the entirely characteristic taste, feeling, and delicacy of touch of a true female artist, with good colour, appear in Miss R. Place's *Camellias and Indian Vase* (121).—With the last may be classed Mrs. Harrison's *Convolvulus* (125), a delicately and dextrously wrought picture.—Miss H. Coleman's *Christmas Roses, and Marigolds* (258), though very slight, is tasteful and pearly in colour, with a wonderfully unnatural background.

Miss M. Gastineau has a name of old repute: she has profited by valuable lessons, and succeeded, better than even Mrs. Marrable, in rendering the atmosphere, and in producing at least tolerably good drawing. See *On the Road from Langdale, Westmoreland* (172). Miss Gastineau's progress in painting is noteworthy.—Madame Bodichon retains her love for, and exhibits peculiar skill in painting aloe and African scenes. We are charmed by *Tlemcen, Oran* (196) as a study, and heartily tired of the mannerism of which it is an example.—There is freshness and brilliancy in Miss E. M. Boyd's *Vestry Door, St. John's, Margate* (227), a sketch of the interior of a church, looking on the Communion-table and its red foot-cloth.—With equal feeling for breadth to that which appears in Miss Boyd's work, Mrs. G. Parsons chose a more difficult subject for her dextrously wrought landscape of *Lanherne, Mawgan in Pyder, Cornwall* (241).

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE Hanging Committee of the Royal Academy Exhibition, this year, comprises Messrs. Watts, Leighton and Hart. As these gentlemen are all men whose views of art are of the finer and higher order, we may hope that they will succeed in disposing the materials at their command in accordance with those views.

To our note on the picture recently purchased for the National Gallery, which represents the Entombment of Christ, and is ascribed to Michael Angelo, may be added that in the Albertine Collection of Drawings at Vienna is an old copy of a design in red chalk, which is strikingly like part of the design of the picture in question, and also represents the dead Christ borne to the tomb. In both his head rests on the breast of an older person; his lower limbs and the face are precisely alike in both. This drawing is evidently only a copy of another by Michael Angelo, although it is ascribed to that artist. The face of Christ in the picture recalls his face in that noble group in marble, the 'Pieth' of St. Peter's, Rome.

The decorations of the Queen's Robing Room, in the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, are now completed. This chamber, although it has been erected more than twenty years, has never, even to the slightest extent, been used. As it now is, however, we have no doubt the public would be glad to be admitted to view Dyce's pictures from the Arthurian legends, which are not only

fine works in themselves, but peculiarly interesting as forming the largest series of pure frescoes in this country, and, with the exception of one or two comparatively small works by Messrs. Madox Brown and Cave Thomas, the sole examples of art in that mode of painting which are not more or less injured. Mr. Armstead is commissioned to execute the bas-reliefs in oak which are to fill the panels in the dado of the Queen's Robing Room. The subjects of these panels correspond with those of the frescoes above. The ceiling of the room has been decorated in accordance with the style which is illustrated in other parts of the chamber; statuettes in wood have been placed in the niches. The stone-work of the Royal Gallery, Westminster, has been elaborately painted and gilt; four of the eight decorative statues of English sovereigns, which are entrusted to Mr. J. B. Philip, are in their places.

We have received from Messrs. Cassell, Petter & Galpin 'The Vision of Purgatory and Paradise,' by Dante Alighieri, illustrated by M. Gustave Doré. As this is the English edition of a work which we reviewed not long since in the French version, with the same illustrations, all we need speak about now is the faithfulness in reproducing the French edition, so far as the illustrations are concerned, and the general "getting-up" of the new issue. As to the former aspect of our task, we can safely aver that this edition scarcely differs—except slightly in the size of the pages—from its fellow. The prints are equal. The printing, paper and style of the present issue are in no respect inferior to the other.

In the North Court, South Kensington Museum, may now be seen some additional spoils of the Abyssinian campaign, being horse-trappings and robes lent by Col. Stanton; among them a cloak of blue cloth, not unlike that which belonged to the late King Theodore, and is now in a standing case in the centre of the room. Both are decorated in good taste with bosses and tags of filigree and silver. The horse furniture is noteworthy as having many plates of silver imposed upon it, which are enriched with filigree of admirable design and execution. We see no reason for believing the latter to be Abyssinian in their origin. It is hard to avoid comparing the truthful artistic principles of such things as these dresses, evidently semi-barbarous in character as they are, with those of the enormously costly and ultra-laborious but, in art, wholly fallacious and inferior cabinet works, with inlays of the most delicate kinds in ivory and other decorations, which the Art Department bought in Paris last year. So far are the latter objects from being desirable as models for our workmen and for the improvement of the taste of the people, that we are in hearty accord with those who aver that they are specimens of what to avoid rather than to desire, even for costly purposes, and splendid service; while for ordinary purposes, say in a gentleman's house, their only probable tendency is to weaken and degrade rather than purify common tastes. Of quite another order than the last is the beautiful old Italian harpsichord, which the Department acquired since the closing of the Paris Exhibition. This is a rare treasure, as fine as the others are foppish, as elegant as they are feeble, as artistic as they are trivial.

Our review of the General Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings would not be complete without especial reference to the works of two ladies, who prove themselves to be possessed of remarkable artistic powers. The noteworthy painters are Miss Spartali and Miss Lucy Brown. The former is well-known as the artist of many glowing and subtle studies in colour, and apt renderings of refined expression. She now contributes to the gallery in question a picture of a lady, styled *Nereia Foscarini* (461). Miss Brown makes her first appearance this year; yet, by her work alone, we should conclude that she had practised long and well. So far, however, would this conclusion be from the truth, that we have now to commend Miss Brown's first picture in *Painting*, No. 239, which represents a student seated at work at her easel, and surrounded by studio properties. It is

seldom that so deeply-toned and soberly-coloured a picture comes from the hands of a lady; rarely have we seen an example of such high technical merit from those of a tyro. Miss Spartali's key of colour and pitch of tone differ widely from those which Miss Brown employs: she deals with the richer and more luminous development of these elements of art; the other lady is successful in graver, if not broader, and more sober, if not more potent appearances than those which her companion here affects. Both artists lack the fruits of severe study, this is made evident by their common shortcomings in respect to the representing of form by drawing outlines and modelling contours. Miss Spartali's defects in this matter are unpleasantly obvious, as in the wrist of the figures before us, the bungling articulation of which shocks a student's taste, and in the modelling of the features—which are not more solid than those of a face in a painted window. It requires deep admiration for Miss Spartali's endowments in art to enable the critic to look beyond these patent errors, and heartily enjoy and warmly applaud the pathos of the expression of her picture, the profound ardours of its colouring, its breadth, and potency of tone. Miss Brown's work errs more in modelling than in drawing. It is well composed.

We are requested to state that artists of all countries are invited to send works in painting, sculpture, architecture, and engraving to the International Exhibition which will be held in Munich this summer, and which is to last from July till October. Further, the Bavarian Government intends to follow the example set by the French Government with the Legion of Honour, and to confer decorations on such artists as are recommended for such a distinction by the jury.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONCERTS.—The adoption of the French pitch has, according to our anticipations, proved to be unattended by any of the difficulties which are supposed to stand in the way of an adjustment of the question. A few wood instruments were obtained from Paris, and a small temporary organ was put up. Nothing more was needed. If the adoption of the normal diapason becomes general, the violin-players—employing the word in its largest sense—will be able to use thicker strings, and therefore will produce rather fuller tone. The strings, too, will not break so readily. At a recent Crystal Palace concert no less than six fiddlers were disabled in the course of one movement. The players on brass instruments will also be more certain in intonation, and here the effect on the orchestra will end. But the relief to the singers will be invaluable. At the Sacred Harmonic performances any lowering, however slight, would be especially acceptable. Indeed, so painful is the evident difficulty experienced by the trebles in producing a G sharp or A, that Mr. Costa will be driven to the alternative of changing either his chorus or his pitch. The difference between the English and French diapason is, however, not sufficient to have any palpable influence on the effect of a performance at the latter standard, except in so far that high notes are attacked with more certainty and greater ease. It is questionable if one person in ten of those who listened to 'Jephtha,' on Friday week, would have discovered *proprio motu* that any alteration had been made. It is eighteen years, not thirty, as the programme of the "oratorio-concerts" incorrectly stated, since 'Jephtha' has been given in London, so that to many of the present generation the oratorio was quite unknown. There is an evident reason, though not a sufficient one, why the work has been neglected. The oratorio is very unequal. Side by side with choruses of power and grandeur which can only be rivalled among Handel's own creations, are numerous airs—"shop-songs" as they would now be called—written merely to conciliate singers and hearers whom the musician must have despised. It is possible, too, that the glaring inequalities of the work may be in some measure traced to the fierce struggle with disease, which marked the comparatively slow progress of

the oratorio and delayed its completion. The indiscriminate worshippers of a name will, we know, cry out that to question the plenary inspiration of their idol's handiwork is an outrage. But we take it that the most complete reverence for genius is quite compatible with a perception of shortcomings—nay, that those people on whom defects are not lost can best appreciate merits. 'Jephtha,' like many of Handel's oratorios, will bear a good deal of cutting. The constant sequences in the airs and their square-cut character have a monotonous effect which must be acknowledged by every unbiased listener to be wearisome. The oratorio was abridged for this performance with an unsparring hand, and although we missed with regret certain "numbers," notably the fine chorus 'Theme sublime,' we cannot blame the abridgement. The performance was, on the whole, satisfactory, but it was not unexceptionable. The choral singing was frequently uncertain, and occasional mistakes were made by the band which seemed to show that the parts had not been thoroughly corrected. Mr. Barnby conducts with great care, but his beat is wanting in decision. He does not, or, at least, did not at this particular performance, mark the first beat in the bar with sufficient emphasis, so that when the singers hesitate he does not help them to recover themselves. The conductor deserves credit, however, for having succeeded in getting an unknown oratorio performed without any accident. The difficulties of the task were possibly increased by the circumstance that additional accompaniments were written by Mr. Arthur Sullivan, the band parts of which must have required the most sedulous revision. In these accompaniments the young composer has scrupulously followed the hints given in Handel's score. Young though he be, he has a consummate knowledge of the orchestra. Among many strong points instrumentation is his strongest. He has here employed his special skill with discretion, and has succeeded in a task which brings a heavy responsibility and little honour. It is fortunate that some of the grandest choruses were the best rendered. Of these 'How dark, O Lord, are thy decrees,' with its masterly double-canon, its admirable fugato movement, and its picturesque setting of the concluding words, 'Whatever is, is right,' aptly illustrates Mozart's remark, "Handel understands effect better than any of us; when he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt." The "title-part," as the Germans call it, of 'Jephtha' concentrates into itself all the interest of the oratorio. It needs a rare combination of musical culture with emotional power to do justice to the broken-hearted father's bitter self-reproach, 'Deeper and deeper still.' No singer of our time, with the exception of Mr. Sims Reeves, has succeeded in the task. His singing alone would always make the oratorio attractive. The prayer, 'Waft her, angels, through the skies,' was a model of cantabile singing, but it was a pity that Mr. Reeves thought it advisable to transpose it from G to C flat. The opponents of any change in the diapason will say that it would have been more easy to lower it from C to F at the ordinary pitch, and that therefore Mr. Reeves need not have refused to sing for the Sacred Harmonic Society. But it is only fair to remember that the lowering of the pitch affords general relief to all concerned, and in all that is performed. Miss Banks sang the solos of Iphis, Jephtha's daughter, neatly, but Madlle. Drasdil, to whose share fell one of the finest solos in the work, 'Scenes of horror, scenes of woe,' forced her voice out of tune.

The only novelty at Mr. Leslie's first concert, given on Thursday, in last week, was a *quasi*-novelty only. Schubert's 'Song of Miriam' was announced "for the first time in London," but although this was true to the letter it was not true to the spirit, as the Crystal Palace, where the *cantata* has been twice given lately, practically belongs to the metropolis. It was, however, far better performed at St. James's Hall. The choruses were excellently sung, and Miss Edith Wynne gave all the solos with deep, unforced feeling. Neither the Midsummer Night's Dream music, nor Mendelssohn's D minor concerto, played by Madame Schumann, calls for any remark, but Mr. Leslie's choir demands a word of recognition for their superb

rendering of Samuel Wesley's Motet for double choir 'In exitu Israel,' a composition as masterly as it is difficult.

The overture in D, "never performed before," of Schubert, brought out at last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert, is quite unpretending, but it is none the less a gem. It is in Rossini's style, and not even the Swan of Pesaro himself has left anything more sparkling than the quick movement of this fascinating trifle. Beethoven's symphony in A was played with marvellous effect, and Miss Zimmermann's rendering of Mozart's glorious D minor concerto, if somewhat hard, was yet musicianlike and clever.

Bach's double violin concerto in D minor at once seized the fancy of the audience at last Monday's Popular Concert, and they encored the very first movement of the old organist's elaborate work with an amount of enthusiasm which operatic singers evoke more frequently than instrumental performers. The immense vigour of the first and third movements are not to be resisted, while the *largo* is graciousness itself. Herr Joachim was ably seconded by M. Sainton, who held the principal second violin, and there was an efficient little orchestra of nine stringed instruments.

SURREY.—A dramatic version of 'Enoch Arden,' commenced by the late Mr. J. Stirling Coyne, and completed by his son Mr. Denis Coyne, has been produced at the Surrey. The title bestowed upon the play, which is in three long acts, is 'The Home Wreck.' Dramas founded upon a story not widely dissimilar from that of 'Enoch Arden' have frequently been exhibited at the minor theatres. An incident like the return of a sailor known to be shipwrecked and supposed to be drowned is of constant occurrence in nautical dramas, more than one of which turns upon the difficulties and the necessity for self-sacrifice which arise when two men equally worthy claim the hand of the same woman whom both have wedded. Very few alterations have been made by Mr. Coyne in the story of 'Enoch Arden.' A slightly different termination is contrived, and the requisite comic characters are introduced. *Richard Tressider*, the Enoch Arden of the drama, returns to claim Mary his wife, and for that purpose enters the house of *Walter Ellington*, his friend and her second husband. While waiting for her appearance, he is recognized by an old woman who had known him as a youth, and from her he obtains a narrative of what has passed during his absence. At first his thoughts are vindictive and his actions menacing. But gentler feelings succeed, and in an interview with his wife which follows he disguises his voice and escapes recognition. He tells her he is a former shipmate of her husband, from whom he brings messages of blessing and farewell. Subsequently he meets his death in an unsuccessful attempt to save the life of Ellington, who has ventured out on a stormy night to rescue the crew of a vessel wrecked upon the harbour bar. Tressider when washed up by the sea is sensible, and before he dies is recognized by his wife, who receives his assurance of reconciliation and his blessing upon her marriage. As much of the poetry of the original as could well be preserved is retained in the play. Much of the merit of the poem, however, lies in descriptive passages, and these are, of course, unavailable to the dramatist. It is the scene-painter who has to bring before us the

Winding glades high up like ways to Heaven,
The slender cove's drooping crown of plumes,
The lightning flash of insect and of bird,
The lustre of the long convolvulus;

or—
The league-long roller thundering on the reef.

This task has been fairly accomplished by the artists employed. The view of the island on which Tressider is cast is picturesque, though the atmosphere is ultra-tropical in glow of colour and light. A representation of a stormy sea is a very clever scenic effect. The manner in which the phosphorescent light of the breakers dashing upon the rocks is managed is very ingenious. We record a protest against a piece of cruelty perpetrated in the scene of Mary's vision. A young girl personat-

ing an equally pure stage, and in many lights, during pervaded more than effect must is needed. The action a careful main well attention. Richard Mrs. Wal proving l the stage clerk, re Nature h comic fac has anato quite "b

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ing an angel is drawn up, in a manner that looks equally painful and dangerous, to the top of the stage, and is retained there at a perilous elevation, and in most unpleasant proximity to the upper lights, during a long scene. A sensation of disgust pervaded the entire house while this endured, and more than once found audible utterance. This effect must at once be excised. Great compression is needed in the second and third acts of the play. The acting was respectable. Mr. Creswick gave a careful rendering of Tressider, and was in the main well supported. Two parts deserve special attention. As Mrs. Jellicoe, the woman from whom Richard Tressider learns of his wife's marriage, Mrs. Walton acted with real feeling and power, proving herself one of the best "old women" on the stage. The part of Jacob Waspser, a lawyer's clerk, revealed in Mr. C. Jones an actor whom Nature has blessed with the most preposterously comic face and figure we have seen. Mr. Jones has snatched not one grace, but a score of graces quite "beyond the reach of art."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC Gossip.

THE performances at the St. James's Theatre conclude with a new ballet entitled 'Arda.' This is a very elaborate production, occupying an hour in the performance, and bringing upon the stage a large number of dancers. It is deficient in grace, however, and quite destitute of any form of originality. The dancing of various members of the Kiralfi family was good. That of Mlle. La Ferté was loudly applauded by the audience, on what ground it is difficult to say, as it was confined to some posturing and gesture.

'The Dead Heart' of Mr. Watts Phillips, a gloomy and powerful drama of the French Revolution, has been revived at the Adelphi with Mr. B. Webster and Mrs. Alfred Mellon in their original parts.

The anniversary dinner of the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund Association on Wednesday night, was held at Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel Addison. Mrs. Stirling made her customary speech, and was received with much applause. Mr. Webster afterwards addressed the meeting. The dinner was followed by a ball.

The first concert of the Philharmonic Society is announced for Wednesday, the 10th of March, at St. James's Hall. The succeeding concerts will take place on Mondays as in former seasons.

A performance of the Belhus Amateur Dramatic Corps took place on Tuesday evening at the St. George's Theatre before a crowded and fashionable audience. A new drama by Mrs. A. C. Steele, entitled 'Under False Colours,' was played for the first time in London. The piece, which is simple in plot and not very ingenious in construction, describes the misfortunes of a lady who is indiscreet enough to conceal from her husband a love affair of a very romantic kind in which, previous to her marriage, she had been engaged. Her reticence gives an unscrupulous man a power over her, the exercise of which is productive of misunderstandings and much misery. The principal parts were supported by Lady Barrett Lennard, Mrs. A. C. Steele, Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, and other members of the Belhus company. The farce of 'Petticoat Government,' supported by the Hon. Mrs. G. C. Petre, Miss B. Petre, and Mr. A. Iverson, followed.

Mrs. Dallas writes to the morning papers to say that she is in good health, and means to continue her public readings. We are glad to hear it. She also states that she is not preparing pupils for the stage, as recently reported. In the face of this denial, we assert that our authority for the statement was the very best, and if Mrs. Dallas gives us leave, we will name that authority with the greatest pleasure.

Rossini's 'Messe Solennelle,' purchased from the composer's widow at the price, it is said, of one hundred thousand francs, is shortly to be brought out at the Italian Opera of Paris. Madame Albini, who has not been heard in public for some years, has accepted an engagement to sing the contralto part. The other solo parts are to be taken by Mlle. Krauss and MM. Nicolini and Agnesi.

'Une Folie à Rome,' the new opera of Signor Federico Ricci, has, after several postponements, been brought out at the Théâtre des Fantaisies Parisiennes. The story, which is slight in the extreme, sets forth the schemes by which a young heiress, bound by law to marry her old guardian, seeks to induce him to refuse her hand. It is, in fact, the plot of 'Don Pasquale' told over again. A genuine opera buffa, "as light as air," 'Une Folie à Rome' pleased the French audience. Mlle. Marimon, formerly of the Opéra Comique, was expressly engaged, and the performance was very creditable to the small theatre in which it took place.

At the last Concert Populaire Madame Norman Neruda was to play Vieuxtemps' Fantasia appassionata for violin; and Schumann's 'Genoëva' overture was among the orchestral pieces.

'Madame la Marquise' is the title of a new drama by MM. Lockroy and De Saint-Georges in rehearsal at the Odéon.

The new drama of M. Alexandre Dumas, 'Les Blancs et les Bleus,' is in rehearsal at the Châtelet, and will succeed 'Theodoros.'

Among anticipated novelties at the Parisian theatres are a three-act comedy by M. Edmond Gouinet, at the Palais Royal, in which M. Geoffroy will re-appear; a new drama by M. Victorien Sardou at the Porte St.-Martin; 'Julie,' a comedy by M. Octave Feuillet at the Théâtre Français; and 'La Famille des Gueux,' by M. Claretie, at the Ambigu Comique. At the theatre last named, 'Don César de Bazan' has been revived for the representations of M. Frédéric Lemaître.

A banquet has been given to M. Édouard Thierry, the administrator of the Théâtre Français, by the *sociétaires*, male and female, of the theatre. Regnier, the *doyen*, proposed M. Thierry's health, in a speech which proves the French to be, on occasion, equal to ourselves in after-dinner oratory.

M. Frédéric Mistral, the author of the poem on which the *libretto* of 'Mireille' is founded, is engaged in the composition of a drama, in the Provençal tongue, entitled 'La Reine Jeanne' ('La Reine Jeanne'). It is intended for the stage; though some difficulty must, we suppose, lie in the way of its production.

La Revue et Gazette des Théâtres asserts that Dupuis, of the Variétés, has accepted an engagement in London for two months, for the sum of 25,000 francs. From other sources we learn that Bertholier goes for a month to Cairo for 15,000 francs. M. Dumaine passes to the Porte St.-Martin, Paul Deshayes to the Ambigu, and Léonce to the Variétés.

On the latest French list of failures, the names of three theatrical managers, or ex-managers, appear—those, namely, of M. Gaspari, of the Menus Plaisirs; M. Varcollier, formerly of the Bouffes Parisiens; and M. Busnach, of the Athénée.

The Court of Appeal in Paris has condemned MM. Lefranc and Dupontavisse, formerly directors of the Bouffes Parisiens, to pay, with costs, the following sums to various actors who have summoned them for breach of contract:—15,000 francs to Madame Thierret, 20,000 francs to M. Joly, and to MM. Thornase, Daubray and Pericault sums ranging from 3,000 to 3,600 francs.

Herr Wagner's 'Meistersänger von Nürnberg' has been produced at Dresden, under the direction of Herr Julius Rietz. In the same pleasant and most musical capital Herr Anton Rubinstein has been playing with success.

Haydn's 'Oxford Symphony' has just been played, for the first time, in Vienna, at a Philharmonic Concert, where it excited singular enthusiasm. Strange as it must seem that the good people of the *gemüthliche Kaiserstadt* should take ninety years to make up their minds about playing a symphony by their favourite composer, it is pleasant to hear that, even after that lapse of time, the old musician should be able to wake the echoes of the city he loved so well.

Mlle. Marie Krebs, a young Dresden lady, who was solo pianiste at the late Alfred Mellon's concerts, is studying for the lyric stage. Her voice is said to be good.

Herr Hoffman von Fallersleben has just published

his Autobiography, in six volumes. The last volume is exclusively devoted to reminiscences of the life at Weimar when the Abbé Liszt ruled there, and will, on that account, interest many musical readers.

M. Gounod's 'Tobias' has been recently given in Amsterdam, but it was indifferently performed, and made no impression. Schumann's 'Faust' has also been lately done in the Dutch capital by one of its numerous musical societies.

MISCELLANEA

Contraction of Igneous Rocks on Cooling.—In your number for January 30 (p. 183), Mr. H. P. Malet, when referring to the appearance of the so-called artificial stone cast from molten Rowley Rag, complains that his question "No. 4, Did any of the mass retain the character of the basaltic rock?" is not answered in my original paper (*Chemical News*, October 23, 1865). Most men of science would consider this question replied to by the statement that the molten rock after slow cooling had re-assumed the "stony condition," and then possessed the identical specific gravity of the original rock. It might, however, have been added that portions of the so-called artificial stone could not, even upon minute inspection, be distinguished from the original basaltic rock. I imagine, therefore, that Mr. Malet's subsequent question, "I therefore ask science to explain to me why these rocks are left in a condition neither crystalline, glass, or lava?" requires no further consideration. A comparison of the numerous published analyses of lavas by Bunsen and other eminent chemists will show the analyses quoted by Mr. Malet to be quite exceptional in composition, and indicate that he is probably not aware that the lavas emitted by active volcanoes are of two very different characters: the acid or trachytic containing a preponderance of silica, and strikingly analogous to the old granites in chemical composition; and the basic or pyroxenic, nearly if not quite identical with the basalts. This will be seen on reference to the annexed table:—

	Blast Furnace Slag, Fery.								
	39.00	17.14	2.07	31.95	4.31	1.98	3.46		
Lava, Vesuvius, Silvestri.	39	14	13	18	3	11	2		
Rowley Rag, Henry.	40.86	12.75	14.74	8.71	4.39	5.82	3.73		
Lava, Pyroxenic, Etna, Fuchs.	40.27	13.64	12.90	10.33	3.76	5.67	—		
Plate Glass, Dumas.	73.83	3.50	—	5.00	—	17.55	—		
Lava, Trachytic, Iceland, Bunsen.	73.37	17.25	2.40	1.52	5.36	—	—		
Granite, Dublin, Houghton.	73.00	13.04	2.44	1.84	0.71	7.74	1.23		
Silica	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Alumina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oxide of Iron	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lime	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Magnesia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Alkalies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other bases, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Which also shows that the lava of Vesuvius quoted by Mr. Malet is in chemical constitution allied to a Staffordshire iron-furnace slag, in which a part of the oxides of iron and alkalies are replaced by the lime added in the smelting operation. Basalts like those of the Giant's Causeway cannot be distinguished from those of unquestionable volcanic action; and I am quite safe in stating that they are universally allowed to be of similar origin by geologists and chemists, even by those, like Prof. Bischof, of the most ultra-Neptunic tendencies.

Mr. Malet refers one to the 'Circle of Light' for his opinions; but after making numerous inquiries among scientific men, and especially of Fellows of the Royal, Chemical and Geological Societies, I have not been, as yet, able to encounter any one who has heard of this publication, or can give me any information concerning it.

DAVID FORBES, F.R.S.

The Lisbon Earthquake Wave.—I was told by the Rev. John Lymbery, Vicar of Hook, Co. Wexford, that his grandfather was standing on Credan Head (one of the points of land which form the harbour of Wexford) and saw the wave resulting from the Lisbon Earthquake roll in on the land.

JAMES GRAVES.

The Wycliffe MS.—It may interest your readers to have an account of the Wycliffe MS., lately purchased at a considerable cost for the British Museum, at the sale of the late Marquis of Hastings's Library. In this case nothing can be more misleading than the description of the MS. which has appeared in the newspapers. It was said to be in Wycliffe's own handwriting. It is neither the one nor the other. The work is simply a copy of the 'Commentary on St. Matthew,' usually ascribed to Wycliffe. It is executed in a hand of the fifteenth century, and therefore is unquestionably not in the handwriting of Wycliffe himself, who died in the year 1384. There is a much finer MS. of the same work in the Bodleian Library here; there is also another in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge; but of this third MS. the existence was generally unknown. With regard to the work itself, I have examined the question of its authenticity in the introduction to the forthcoming edition of selected English works of Wycliffe, undertaken by the Clarendon Press, and have, I believe, shown that there is no valid reason for ascribing it to Wycliffe. Further evidence to the same effect met my eyes, as I was examining the MS. now under consideration. In the epilogue or peroration the writer more than once speaks of himself as a "pore scribbeler," language which Wycliffe, who was troubled with no false humility, was, I think, incapable of using respecting himself. But there is something much more decisive. The writer seems to have thought that some justification was necessary for the copious citations in the Commentary from Rabanus Maurus; accordingly he says:—"Wondir not, lewed men, though Rabanus be moche allegid in this gloose; for he was an holy doctour almost of sixe hundrid yeres agon." Now Rabanus died, at the age of eighty, in the year 856; and even if we calculate the six hundred years, not from the date of his death, but from the period during which he flourished,—say any time between the years 820 and 850,—we still are forced to conclude that the words were written not earlier than the beginning of the fifteenth century, and consequently that the writer could not have been Wycliffe. So thought some previous possessor of the MS.; for at the foot of the column in which the passage occurs, the following note is appended, in a sixteenth-century hand:—"It appears by what he saith of Rabanus in this column that this book was written in beginning or some time before y^e middle of the fifteenth century." T. ARNOLD.

Crinoline.—The correspondent who sent us the quotation for this word from R. Lloyd's 'Spirit of Contradiction,' informs us that he was taken in by the book he quoted from, 'Routledge's Comic Reciter, 1867,' p. 111, in which the editor, some Mr. J. E. Carpenter, has, without notice, altered Lloyd's words "mobs and gowns"—mob being the well-known mob-cap—into the word *crinolines*. The discovery of this impudent imposture as to its date, thus forced on the innocent *crinoline*, is due to Mr. T. Chambers, of Auckland Road. We cannot think that Messrs. Routledge, who publish such editions as they do of our standard authors, are conscious of the alteration noted above, and we trust to them to see it set right. Changes of free expressions in books meant for popular use are all very well; but wanton and misleading alterations should not be made.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—E. D.—A.—Amateur.—A. W.—A. J. R.—A Reader.—G. J. S.—received.

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Inspectors of Branches—H. J. Lemon, Esq., and C. Sherring, Esq.

Secretary—F. Clappison, Esq.

Head Office—21, Lombard-street.

At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors, held on Thursday, the 4th February, 1869, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street Station, the following Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1868, was read by the Secretary.

WILLIAM NICOL, Esq., in the Chair.

The Directors, in presenting to the Proprietors the Balance-sheet of the Bank for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, have the pleasure to report that, after paying interest to customers, and all charges, allowing for debit, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits amount to 8,548, 5s. 5d. This sum, added to £4,092 3s. 4d. brought forward from the last account, produces a total of 12,640 8s. 9d. The usual dividend of 6 per cent for the half-year is recommended, together with a bonus of 2 per cent, both free of income-tax, which will absorb 89,924 10s. 11d., and leave 5,817 4s. 10d. to be carried forward to profit and loss new account. The dividend for the whole year 1868 will thus be 16 1/2 per cent.

The Directors have to announce the election of Lord Alfred Hervey as a Director in the room of the Right Hon. Hugh C. E. Childers, M.P., who has vacated his office in the present Administration; the election of James Morley, Esq., in the room of E. W. T. Hamilton, Esq., who has retired on account of ill health; and the election of Thomas Stock Cowie, Esq., in the room of J. E. Anderson, Esq., whose removal to reside in the West of England compelled his retirement.

The Directors retiring by rotation are John William Burnster, Esq., John Fleming, Esq., and William Champion Jones, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The dividend and bonus (together 16 1/2 per cent), free of income-tax, will be payable at the Head Office, or at any of the Branches, on and after Monday, the 10th instant.

Balance-Sheet of the London and County Banking Company, 31st December, 1868.

Dr.			
To capital	£1,000,000	0	0
To instalments unpaid, not yet due	14,644	0	0
To reserve fund	500,000	0	0
To instalments unpaid, not yet due	14,644	0	0
To amount due by the Bank for customers' balances, &c.	15,469,789	3	1
To liabilities on acceptance, covered by securities	3,242,930	14	3
To profit and loss balance brought from last account	4,092	3	4
To gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	234,156	3	6
	£17,414,880	4	2

Cr.			
By cash on hand at Head Office and Branches, and with Bank of England	£1,853,340	16	6
By cash placed at call and at notice, covered by securities	1,195,571	19	5
Investments, viz.:			
By Government and guaranteed stocks	1,265,263	13	10
By other stocks and securities	69,128	7	3
By discounted bills, and advances to customers in town and country	9,430,486	1	5
By liabilities of customers for drafts accepted by the Bank (as per contract)	3,242,930	14	3
Freshhold premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, freshhold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings	321,519	13	2
Interest paid to customers	34,561	10	9
Salaries and all other charges of the Bank and Branches, including income-tax on profits and salaries	90,488	4	6
	£17,414,880	4	2

Dr.			
To interest paid to customers, as above	£24,591	6	10
To expenses ditto	90,488	4	6
To rebate on bills not due, carried to new account	15,066	13	2
To dividend of 6 per cent for the half-year	58,535	3	8
To bonus of 2 per cent	24,380	13	3
To balance carried forward	5,817	4	10
	£238,048	6	10
Cr.			
By balance brought forward from last account	£4,092	3	4
By gross profit for the half-year after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	234,156	3	6
	£238,048	6	10

We, the undersigned, have examined and approved the above Balance-sheet.

(Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN,

R. H. SWAINE,

and JOHN THOMSON, Auditors.

London and County Bank, 25th Jan. 1869.

The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following resolutions were proposed, and unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the Shareholders.
2. That a Dividend of 6 per cent, together with a Bonus of 2 per cent, both free of Income Tax, be declared for the year ending 31st December, 1868, payable on and after MONDAY, the 10th inst., and that the balance of 5,817 4s. 10d. be carried forward to Profit and Loss new account.
3. That John William Burnster, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company; that John Fleming, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company; and that William Champion Jones, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company.
4. That William Norman, Richard Hinds Swaine, and Whitbread Tomson, Esquires, be elected Auditors for the current year.
5. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company.
6. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Auditors of the Company for their services during the past year.
7. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to William McKewan, Esq., to the Chief Inspector, to the Chief Accountant, to the Secretary, and to all the Branch Managers and other Officers of the Bank, for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged their respective duties.

(Signed) W. NICOL, Chairman.

The Chairman having quitted the chair, it was resolved and carried unanimously:—

8. That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to William Nicol, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the chair.

(Signed) W. CHAMPTION JONES, Deputy-Chairman.

Extracted from the Minutes,

(Signed) F. CLAPPISON, Secretary.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a DIVIDEND on the Capital of the Company, at the rate of Six per Cent, for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1868, will be paid on MONDAY, the 10th inst., to the Proprietors, either at the Head Office, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's Branch Banks, on and after MONDAY, the 10th inst.

By order of the Board,
W. MCKEWAN, General Manager.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY POLICIES, Unforfeitable, Unconditional, and Unchangeable, issued by the PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, 62, Ludgate-hill.

The Directors of this Company, in deference to an objection not unfrequently urged by persons invited to assure, that the ordinary mode of Life Assurance is in the opinion defective or unsatisfactory, by reason of the operation of the most many conditions, have resolved to promulgate the present Tables, and to issue Assurances under them which shall be absolutely Unforfeitable, Unconditional, and Unchangeable.

For the reason referred to, many persons hesitate or decline to assure on the ground that, in the event of inability or unwillingness to continue payment of their premiums, the Assurance will become forfeited. To this class of the public the system now introduced will especially commend itself, being entirely free of all conditions of forfeiture on account of non-payment of premium, or from any other cause whatever, while at the same time it absolutely guarantees at death, even when a default is made in payment of premium, a fixed sum in respect of every premium paid, leaving the same proportion to the total amount assured as the number of premiums actually paid may bear to the whole number originally contracted to be paid.

Notwithstanding this important advantage, every policy will expressly state what sum can at any time be withdrawn on the discontinuance of the Assurance.

The Assured will thus always have the option of retaining either an ascertained fixed sum payable at death, or, in case of need, of withdrawing a certain amount, according to the duration of the policy, such amount being always a proportion of the sum insured, and rendering unnecessary any future reference to the Company on these points, as in the case with ordinary Assurances.

Creditors assuring the lives of debtors will appreciate this feature as one greatly protective of their interests, and it will likewise commend itself to bankers, capitalists, and others who are in the habit of making advances collaterally secured by Life Policies, as they thus learn, by mere inspection of the policy, the exact value, either immediate or reversionary, of a Policy of this description.

Every Policy issued on this plan will be without any condition as to voyaging, foreign residence, or other usual limitations. By this freedom from restrictions of all kinds, the objections before referred to are entirely removed, and every Policy will become at once positively valuable as actual securities.

In addition to the foregoing statement of advantages, the number of premiums is strictly defined. The longest term provided for is twenty-five years, and the shortest five years, as shown by the Tables. Thus, bankers, creditors, and other holding Policies of this class as security may always know the utmost amount they may be called upon to advance so as to maintain the full benefit of the Assurances—a matter of great importance where Policies are held as collateral security.

It is only necessary to add that, as a consequence of the Policies under these Tables being Unforfeitable and Unconditional, they will also be Unchangeable on any ground whatever. They may therefore be applied term for term, and from year to year, without the necessity of any renewal.

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